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GEORGE WASHINGTON
BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

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War office March 14 1795

Sir,

As the carved work for the frigates should be relative to their names, and will require a length of time to accomplish - there being but a single Carver here competent to the work for the frigates building at Philadelphia & Baltimore and Norfolk - the Captains with Mr Humphreys the Constructor at this place, have represented the necessity of an early designation of the names of the Frigates. To facilitate your choice I beg leave now to lay before you a select list of such as have occurred in my conversation with Gentlemen on the subject.

United States.
Constitution.
President.
Congress.
Constellation.
Defiance.
Fortitude
Perseverance
Protector
Liberty.

I have the honour to be
with the greatest respect
Sir
Your most obt. Servant
Timothy Pickering

The President of the United States.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR, SUBMITTING NAMES FOR THE UNITED STATES FRIGATES, MAR. 14, 1795

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I have the honour to be with the greatest respect Sir Your most obt. Servant Timothy Pickering

The President of the United States.

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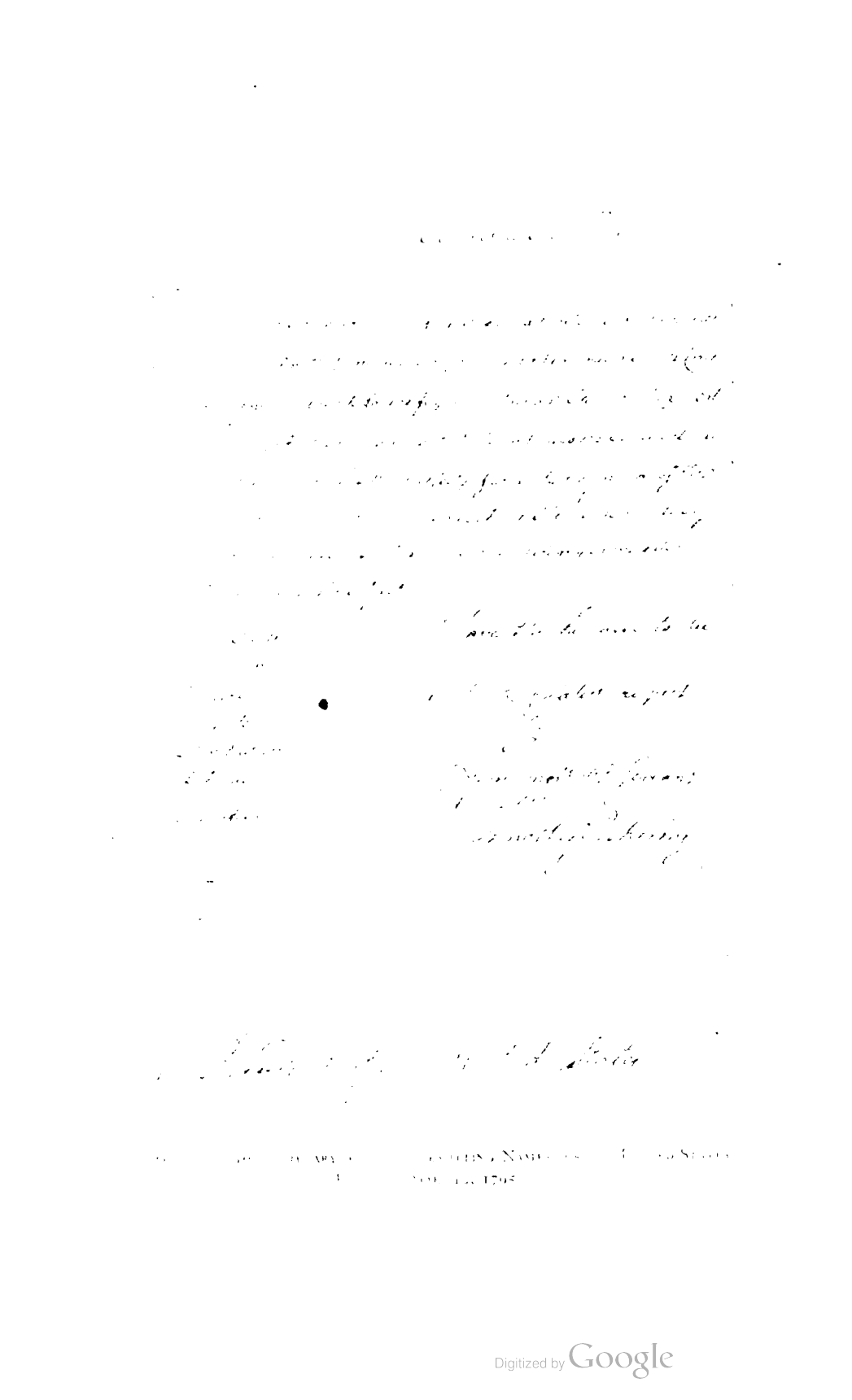

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George Washington

from the

Original Manuscript Sources

1745–1799

Prepared under the direction of the UNITED STATES
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
and published by authority of CONGRESS

JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, *Editor*

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THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

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THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Carlisle, October 11, 1794. past 3 Oclock P M

Dear Sir: When I wrote to you yesterday, I did not expect to be in this village at this hour. But finding it difficult to get even part of the Troops off, that were ordered to March yesterday, I resolved to see the residue in motion to day before I left this place, myself. This dilatoriness does not proceed from any disinclination in the Troops themselves, to proceed; but for want of arrangement, and system in some of the principal characters among the Officers of this State, and the disjointed manner in which the former have arrived here. Those however which marched yesterday, with what have followd to day, will make a respectable corps. An Officer of respectability will be left to Organize the remaining detachments of this State's Troops as they shall arrive, and to forward them on. The Jersey Troops came on in Compe. Corps but are badly cloathed.

I had scarcely dispatched my letter to you yesterday, when the Commissioners or deputies (Findley and Redick) from the Insurgent Counties arrived.[1] My Public letter, written by Colo.

[1] At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "with the resolves of the meeting at Parkinsons ferry on the 2d instant; and their ideas of the sentiments of the people in the four Western Counties of this State. From which it is very evident they are not a little panic struck but not yet come to thr propr Senses, this I hope will soon happen and that they will be ready to do any thing and every thing that is required of them. But it is to be feared all those of whom fit examples ought to be made will have left the Country; as they are disposing of their property *at any rate* and many have actually (according to their accts.) fled."

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Hamilton will inform you of the result. I believe they are scared.

All the Papers which may be deemed necessary and proper to accompany my address to Congress, at the Opening of the Session, I pray you to have ready; for there will not be time to do it between my arrival in the City, and the meeting of that body. From present appearances It is not likely I shall proceed beyond Bedford. My return to Philadelphia even in that case can be but a day or two before the first Monday in next month. Sincerely and Affectionately &c.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Fort Cumberland, October 16, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 11th. instt. were received this morning at my stage 15 miles short of this place. We arrived here in the afternoon of this day; and found a respectable force assembled from the States of Virginia and Maryland; and I am informed that about 1500 more (from the former state) either is or will be at Frankfort (ten miles on our left) this evening or tomorrow at farthest. Nothing more precise, than you were informed of in my last, from Carlisle, has been heard from the Insurgent counties. All accts. agree however, that they are much alarmed at the serious appearance of things: The truth of which I expect to be better informed of to morrow, or next day, by persons whom I have sent amongst them and whose return may be looked for about that time.

I do not expect to be here more than two days; thence to Bedford, where, as soon as matters are arranged, and a plan settled, I shall shape my course for Philadelphia; but not

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because the impertinence of Mr. Bache,[3] or his corrispondents has undertaken to pronounce, that I cannot, constitutionally, command the Army whilst Congress are in Session.

I believe the eyes of all the *well* disposed people of this Country will soon be opened, and that they will clearly see, the tendency if not the design of the leaders of these self created societies.[3] As far as I have heard them spoken of, it is with strong reprobation. I should be extremely sorry therefore if Mr. M——n[4] *from any cause whatsoever* should get entangled with them, or their politics.

As the Speech will be composed of several distinct subjects, my wish was that each of these shd. receive its final dress; subject however to revision; that part especially which relates to the insurrection and the proceedings thereupon. The subjects themselves, will naturally point to the order, in which they ought to follow each other; and the throwing them into it cannot, at any time, be more than the work of a few minutes after the materials are all provided. It will appear evident, on a moments reflection, that the continual interruptions in a militia camp, where every thing is to be provided, and arranged, will allow no time to clothe the speech in a correct or handsome garb; nor will there be time to do it after my return.

My mind is so perfectly convinced, that if these self created socities cannot be discountenanced, that they will destroy the government of this Country that I have asked myself whilst I have been revolving on the expence and inconvenience of drawing so many men from their families and occupations as I have

[3] Benjamin Franklin Bache.
[3] The Democratic societies.
[4] James Madison.
The Secretary of State (Randolph) had written to Washington from Philadelphia (October 14): "Governor Mifflin's conduct at Carlisle has been represented here in colours, so full of contempt, that the general observation is, 'how unfit would he have been to command the army.'" Randolph's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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seen on their march where wd. be the impropriety of glancing at them in my Speech by some such idea as the following;

That however distressing this Expedition will have proved to individuals, and expensive to the Country, the pleasing spirit which it has drawn forth in support of Law and Govt. will immortalize the American character and is a happy presage, that future attempts of a certain description of people will not, tho' accompanied by the same industry, sow the seed of distrust and disturb the public tranquillity will prove equally abortive.[5]

I have formed no precise ideas of what is best to be done or said on this subject, nor have I time to express properly what has occurred to me, as I am now writing at an hour when I ought to be in bed; because all the day, from business or ceremonious introductions I have been unable to do it sooner. I am, &c.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Fort Cumberland, October 18, 1794.

Dear Sir: I have directed Mr. Dandridge to acknowledge the receipt of your public despatches of the 13. Inst, whilst I enclose those of our Envoy to you, which came under cover to me in a letter from him dated the 5. of August,[6] with the following P. S.:

I shall enclose with this my dispatches for Mr. Randolph. If the William Penn shou'd be stopped by a *belligerent* vessel, they will respect a letter directed to you, more than one directed to him

on opening it, I find duplicates only.

[5] As first written this portion read "the American character notwithstanding the infinite pains which have been taken by certain descriptions of men and incendiary writers to disturb the public mind and lead it astray impress it with the most unfavorable ideas of its government."

[6] John Jay's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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His private letter to me of the date above, and which he wishes may be considered as confidential, (which, and the possible risque, prevents my sending it to you by the returning Express) is a very pleasing one; as it is more indicative of a hope and expectation of *general* good success in his mission than any that had come from him before. He conceives, that there is no indisposition in the present ministry to settle the *several* matters in dispute upon what *they* conceive to be just and liberal terms. But what these may appear to be, when they come to close discussion, no one can prognosticate; to give and take I presume will be the result. I am led to draw more favorable inferrences from this letter however than from any of his preceding ones. I am, &c.[7]

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE[8]

Bedford, October 20, 1794.

Sir: Being about to return to the seat of government, I cannot take my departure without conveying through you to the Army under your command the very high sense I entertain of the enlightened and patriotic zeal for the constitution and the laws which has led them chearfully to quit their families and homes and the comforts of private life to undertake and thus far to perform a long and fatiguing march and to encounter and endure the hardships and privations of a Military life.

[7] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

On October 18 Dandridge wrote to the Secretary of State: "By information which has been received thro' several channels it appears that the people in the western counties of Pennsylvania are at length convinced of the approach of the army, and are truly alarmed at the consequences which may attend its passage thro' their country. . . . The President will leave this place [Fort Cumberland] early tomorrow morning on his way to Bedford, where 'tis likely he will be detained three or four days." Dandridge's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] Also the commander in chief of the militia army marching against the insurrectionists in western Pennsylvania.

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Their conduct hitherto affords a full assurance that their perseverance will be equal to their zeal and that they will continue to perform with alacrity whatever the full accomplishment of the object of their march shall render necessary.

No citizens of the U. States can ever be engaged in a service more important to the Country. It is nothing less than to consolidate and to preserve the blessings of that Revolution which at much expense of blood and treasure constituted us a free and independent Nation. It is to give the world an illustrious example, of the utmost consequence to the cause of mankind. I experience a heart-felt satisfaction in the conviction that the Conduct of the troops throughout will be in every respect answerable to the goodness of the cause and the magnitude of the stake.

There is but one point on which I think it proper to add a special recommendation. It is this, that every officer and soldier will constantly bear in mind that he comes to support the laws and that it would be peculiarly unbecoming in him to be in any way the infractor of them; that the essential principles of a free government confine the provinces of the Military to these two objects: 1st: to combat and subdue all who may be found in arms in opposition to the National will and authority; 2dly to aid and support the civil Magistrate in bringing offenders to justice. The dispensation of this justice belongs to the civil Magistrate and let it ever be our pride and our glory to leave the sacred deposit there unviolated. Convey to my fellow citizens in arms my warm acknowledgments for the readiness with which they have seconded me in the most delicate and momentous duty the chief Magistrate of a free people can have to perform and add my affectionate wishes for their health comfort and success. Could my further presence with them have been necessary or compatible with my civil duties at a

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period when the approaching commencement of a session of Congress particularly urges me to return to the seat of Government, it would not have been withheld. In leaving them I have the less regret, as I know I commit them to an able and faithful director; and that this director will be ably and faithfully seconded by all.[9]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Hartley's, Tuesday Evening, October 21, 1794.

Dear Sir: From Colo. Mentges'[10] information, there are detachments of Militia a considerable distance in the rear; composed in part, of those whose march was designed to be arrested. He adds, many of them are illy clad. This being the case, it appears to me, that an expence, without an equivalent advantage, would result from bringing them forward; and that the cloaths which they must draw to fit them for service would actually be thrown away.

Under this view of the matter, and a full persuation that the Army which is already advanced, is *more* than competent to an opposition that can be given by the Insurgents I request that you would advise with Governors Mifflin and Howell[11] (after receiving the fullest information from Mentges) and cause all, which in your opinions cannot be up in time; all who are inadequately cloathed in the rear, and in a word, all who do not upon mature consideration of circumstances appear to be essential) to return, that the Country may not be unnecessarily burthened with the cloathing, pay and rations of them.

Open all letters of a public nature which may come to the Army addressed to me, and such as are in the Military line and

[9] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The entire letter was published in General Lee's orders of Oct. 21, 1794.

[10] Col. Francis Mentges.

[11] Gov. Richard Howell, of New Jersey.

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relating to the business you are upon, [hand][12] over to the commanding General. I am etc.[13]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Susquehanna (Wrights Ferry), October 26, 1794.

Dear Sir: A little advanced of this, yesterday afternoon, I met an Express with the letters herewith enclosed for you, with others for the Army; with which I have directed him to proceed.

Thus far I have proceeded without accident to man, horse or Carriage, altho' the latter has had wherewith to try its goodness; especially in ascending the North Mountain from Skinners by a wrong road; that is, by the old road which (never was good) and is rendered next to impassible by neglect.

I heard great complaints of Gurney's[14] Corps (and some of the Artillery) along the road to Strasburgh. There I parted from their Rout. In some places, I was told they did not leave a plate, a spoon, a glass or a knife; and this owing, in a great measure as I was informed, to their being left without Officers. At *most* if not *all* the encampments, I found the fences in a manner burnt up. I pray you to mention this to Govr. Mifflin (and indeed to the Qr. Mr. General)[15] with a request (to the former) that the most pointed orders may be given, and every precaution used, to prevent the like on the return of the Army. If the Officers, from impatience to get home, should leave their respective commands; in a word, if they do not march with, and keep the Soldiers in their ranks and from stragling or loitering behind, the borderers on the road will

[12] Mutilated.
[13] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[14] Col. Francis(?) Gurney.
[15] Col. James O'Hara.

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sustain inconceivable damage from the disorderly Troops; whose names will be execrated for, and the service disgraced by, such conduct.

There were some letters put into the hands of Govr. Lee which it would be well for you to repossess yourself of. Among these were two to Messrs. Lynn, Mr. Ross[16] to you and Messrs. Findley's and Redicks'[17] to me. Occasion may require them.

I rode yesterday afternoon thro' the rain from York Town to this place, and got twice in the height of it hung, (and delayed by that means) on the rocks in the middle of the Susquehanna, but I did not feel half as much for my own situation as I did on acct. of the Troops on the Mountains, and of the effect the rain might have on the Roads through the glades.

I do not intend further than Lancaster to day. But on Tuesday, if no accident happens I expect to be landed in the City of Philadelphia. My best wishes attend you, and all with you. Yours sincerely.

PS. I hope you will be enabled by *Hook*, or by *Crook*, to send B—— and H——[18] together with a certain Mr. Guthrie, to Philadelphia for their winter Quarters.[19]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, October 31, 1794.

Dear Sir: By pushing through the rain (which fell more or less on Saturday, Sunday and Monday) I arrived in this City before noon on Tuesday; without encountering any accident on the road, or any thing so unpleasant than the badness of the ways, after the rains had softened the earth and made them

[16] John Lynn, deputy inspector, and James Ross.
[17] John Findley and David Redick (Reddick), insurgents.
[18] David Bradford and Herman Husband, insurgents.
[19] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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susceptible of deep impression, of the Wheels. How you passed through the Glades after the various accounts we had received of them, in such wet weather, I am at a loss to conjecture; but am extremely anxious to know; as I also am to learn the operations of the Army, and the state and condition of it, since.

Nothing important, or new has been lately received from our Ministers abroad; and although accounts from London to the first of September, and from Ireland of still later date have been inserted in the Gazettes, they are not precise enough to be detailed in a letter. In general however, the French continue to be successful by land, and it might be added by Sea also, for they are capturing a great number of British Merchantmen: Nor does the fate of Robespierre seem to have given more than a momentary stagnation to their affairs. The Armies rejoice at it, and the people are congratulating one another on the occasion.

Mr. Monroe is arrived in France and has had his reception in the midst of the Convention, at Paris, but no letter has been received from him.

Few members have yet come to town. Tomorrow I presume will bring many. The papers say Mr. Trumbull is elected to the Senate, in the room of Mr. Mitchell[20] who has resigned; but who has, or will, supply his place in the other house is not mentioned.

Husbands and the other prisoners were safely lodged in this City on Wednesday afternoon. Press the Governors &ca. to be pointed in ordering the Officers under their respective commands, to march back with their respective Corps; and to see that the Inhabitants meet with no disgraceful insults, or injuries from them. The Secretary of War will, I expect, say something respecting the deposit of the Arms and public stores in *proper* places; to him therefore I shall refer.

[20] Jonathan Trumbull and Stephen M. Mitchell, of Connecticut.

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Mrs. Hamilton and your family were very well yesterday afternoon. Your letter of the 23d. has been recd. I am always, and Affectly yours.[21]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, November 2, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: I have had neither leizure for, nor opportunity of, writing to you since I did it from Carlisle, 'till my return to this place; which happened on Tuesday last.[22] In the meantime I have received your several letters of the 28th. of Septr. and 5th. 17th. and 23d. of last month.

As the accident I met with in June last prevented my riding about my farms when I was last at home, I should have been very glad to have made another visit to it in the course of last month, knowing if I did not do it then, It would not be in my power to do it before April, as Congress will, more than probably, set till March and the roads during that month will be in no condition to travel. The perfect confidence however which I place in your care, judgment and integrity, makes me quite easy under the disappointment which I should not have been if my affairs were in the hands of a person of whom I did not entertain the same favorable opinion. By looking to the letters which from time to time I have written you, and to the written details I give you of my plans when you first entered on my business, you will, without any additional direction to them, in this place, see what my views are, and can be at no loss to carry them into effect the ensuing year. To introduce system, and a regular course of crops; to introduce grass where, and when proper; to make meadows, and hedges; to recover my

[21] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[22] October 28.

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fields from the exhausted, and gullied state in which many of them are; to improve my stock, and to get into away of establishing large dayries,[28] and turning that stock to profitable uses (which may be the case so near as my estate lyes to Alexandria, George Town, and the Federal City) and to make much Hay which will always be in demand and command a good price; are much more desirable objects with me than to push the best of my fields, out of their regular course, with a view to encrease the next, or any other year's crops of *grain*. I know full well that by picking and culling the fields I should be able for a *year* or *two* to make larger crops of *grain;* but I know also, that by so doing I shall, in a few years make nothing, and find my land ruined.

I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your daughter, but as it was an event long expected you must have been prepared for the stroke. The country every where that I have been, or heard from, has been uncommonly sickly the past summer, and to the present moment. The ague and fever has been sorely felt where it was never known to be before together with other complaints. The death of Paris is a loss, that of Jupiter the reverse.

You have not informed me in any of your letters which have come to hand whether you have engaged Pyne or any other for the Mansion house or whether McKoy continues another year or is to be replaced by any other. I did not expect much from James Donaldson as an Overlooker of my Carpenters, when I engaged him; and for that reason observ'd to you, that if my Nephew (Colo Willm. Washington of Westmoreland) should have engaged the man I wrote to him about to keep both would be attended with no disadvantage; but I have not heard [or]

[28] Washington spelled this word correctly "dairies" at first; but afterwards changed it as above.

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received a syllable from my Nephew in answer to my letters; hence I infer they never got to his hands; and the demand for workmen at the federal City is such and their wages consequently so high that if Donaldson as an overlooker should prove incompetent I know not how or where you will get supplied. If he understands what he professes to have been bred to, and is sober and industrious, he may prove a very useful man to me, although he is unfit to have the care of my Carpenters. But what have you done with him, if Greens family still occupy the house? By my agreement with him, he is entitled to the use of *that* house, and Garden, and may consider it as a breach of contract to be deprived of it. What then is to be done with the other family. I cannot bear the thought of adding to the distress I know they must be in by turning them a drift; and it would be as disagreeable to let them come into that part of the Green house adjoining the Shoemakers room; their habits are not good; and to mix them among the Negros would be attended with many evils as it respected themselves; and no good as it respected me. It would be better therefore on all accounts if they were removed to some other place even if [I] was to pay the Rent provided it was low, or make some allowance towards it. Donaldson and family will get disgusted by living among the Negros if he is still in the Green house.

I am glad to hear that your Fodder was got in good time, and that there was a good deal of it; also that your Corn is likely to yield well from the gathering you have made of it. It is to be regretted that your last sown wheat looks so indifferently, especially the fallow field at Dogue run. Get all the Buck wheat out of the Straw as soon as you can and put away securely; letting me know the quantity. The Straw will I presume, make good litter.

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I am very sorry to hear that the fly[24] is getting into the Wheat. This makes it necessary to get it out of the straw as quick as possible and either to grind it into flour, or sell it in the grain as soon as possible. To know which of these is most for my benefit, order a hundred bushels of neither your *best* nor *worst* wheat to be sent to the Mill, cleaned as it would and ought to be for sale. Let this hundred bushels be sent to the Mill and manufactured; then see whether the different articles which is made from it, at the Alexandria prices with the Bran &ca. justly rated, is worth, or would fetch more than the unground Wheat at the same Market. If it does not I encounter all the trouble and expence of the Manufactory to a loss. I have requested this experiment several times to be made by your predecessors in my business but never could get it satisfactorily made and have strong reasons for believing that my Wheat, for several years back would have sold for more than the flour of all sorts, with the addition of the bran, shorts and talings. The fact, with respect to the last crop, you may, I conceive, ascertain with certainty, by having recourse to the Mill books; these will, or ought, to Shew, all the Wheat that had been received, and all the flour and other Articles which had been delivered. rating then the different sorts of flour (sold and used) at what it actually fetched, and fixing a proper price on the Bran and shorts with some allowance for the talings gives you the total amount of the Wheat after it is manufactured. then see what the *whole* quantity of Wheat which the Mill had received, would amount to, at what would be deemed the currt, or medium price of Wheat at Alexandria last season; this would give you the aggregate amount in both cases, and shew the difference of the two, upon a large scale.

[24] Hessian fly.

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Are all the Cabbins, as well as the Quarters at Union farm, fixed in the lane opposite to the Overseers house? I fear the season is too late to go into fresh daubed Cabbins. I am &ca.

P. S. By not hearing from you yesterday I presume you were on the Eastern Shore.

*To JOHN JAY

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 1 [–5], 1794.

My dear Sir: On tuesday last I returned from my tour to the Westward; on monday, Congress, by adjournment, are to meet; and on the day following, Mr. Bayard,[25] according to his present expectation, is to leave this city for London.

Thus circumstanced (having so little time between my return, and the opening of the Session, to examine papers and to prepare my communications for the Legislature) you will readily perceive that my present address to you must be hurried; at the sametime my friendship and regard for you, would not let an opportunity, so good as the one afforded by Mr. Bayard, pass without some testimony of my remembrance of you; and an acknowledgment, of the receipt of your private letters to me, dated the 23d of June, 21st of July, and 5th and 11th of August. These comprehend *all* the letters I have recd. from you since your arrival in England, to the present date.

That of the 5th. of August, dawns more favorably upon the success of your mission than any that had preceeded it; and for the honor, dignity and interest of this country; for your own reputation and glory; and for the peculiar pleasure and satisfaction I shd. derive from it, as well on private, as on public

[25] Samuel Bayard.

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considerations, no man more ardently wishes you *compleat* success than I do. But, as you have observed in some of your letters, that it is hardly possible in the early stages of a negociation to foresee all the results, so much depending upon fortuitous circumstances, and incidents which are not within our controul; so, to deserve success, by employing the means with which we are possessed, to the best advantage, and trusting the rest to the all wise disposer, is all that an enlightened public, and the virtuous, and well disposed part of the community, can reasonably expect; nor in which will they I am sure be disappointed. Against the malignancy of the discontented, the turbulant, and the vicious, no abilities; no exertions; nor the most unshaken integrity, are any safeguard.

As far as depends upon the Executive, measures preparatory for the worst, while it hopes for the best, will be pursued; and I shall endeavor to keep things in statu quo until your negotiation assumes a more decisive form; which I hope will soon be the case, as there are many hot heads and impetuous spirits among us who with difficulty can be kept within bounds. This, however, ought not to precipitate your conduct; for, as it has been observed, there is a "tide in human affairs" that ought always to be watched; and because I believe all who are acquainted with you, will readily concede, that considerations both public and private combine to urge you to bring your mission to a close with as much celerity as the nature of it will admit.

As you have been, and will continue to be, fully informed by the Secretary of State of all transactions of a public nature, which relate to, or may have an influence on the points of your mission, it would be unnecessary for me to touch upon any of them in this letter; was it not for the presumption, that, the insurrection in the western counties of this State has excited

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much speculation, and a variety of opinions abroad; and will be represented differently according to the wishes of some, and the prejudices of others, who may exhibit it as an evidence of what has been predicted "that we are unable to govern ourselves." Under this view of the subject, I am happy in giving it to you as the general opinion that this event having happened at the time it did, was fortunate, altho' it will be attended with considerable expence.

That the self-created Societies,[26] wch. have spread themselves over this country, have been labouring incessantly to sow the seeds of distrust, jealousy, and of course discontent; thereby hoping to effect some revolution in the government, is not unknown to you. That they have been the fomenters of the Western disturbances, admits of no doubt in the mind of any one who will examine their conduct. But fortunately, they have precipitated a crisis for which they were not prepared; and thereby have unfolded views which will, I trust, effectuate their annihilation sooner than it might otherwise have happened; at the sametime that it has afforded an occasion for the people of this country to shew their abhorrence of the result, and their attachment to the Constitution and the laws; for I believe that five times the number of militia that was required, would have come forward, if it had been necessary, in support of them.

The Spirit which blazed out on this occasion, as soon as the object was fully understood, and the lenient measures of the government were made known to the people, deserved to be communicated: for there are instances of General Officers going at the head of a single Troop, and of light companies; of field Officers, when they came to the places of rendezvous and found no command for them in that grade, turning into

[26] The Democratic societies.

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the ranks and proceeding as private Soldiers, under their own Captains. and of numbers, possessing the first fortunes in the Country, standing in the ranks as private men and marching day by day with their knapsacks and haversacks at their backs; sleeping on straw, with a single blanket, in a Soldiers tent, during the frosty nights which we have had; by way of example to others. nay more, many young Quakers (not discouraged by the Elders) of the first families, charactrs. and property having turned into the Ranks and are marchg. with the Troops.

These things have terrified the Insurgents, who had no conception that such a spirit prevailed; but, while the thunder only rumbled at a distance, were boasting of their strength, and wishing for, and threatening the militia by turns; intimating, that the arms they should take from them, would soon become a magazine in their hands. Their language is much changed indeed but their principles want correction.

I shall be more prolix in my speech to Congress, on the commencement and progress of this insurrection, than is usual in such an instrument, or, than I should have been, on any other occasion: but, as numbers (at home and abroad) will hear of the insurrection, and will read the speech, that may know nothing of the documents to which it might refer, I conceived, it would be better to encounter the charge of prolixity, by giving a cursory detail of facts (that would show the prominent features of the thing) than to let it go naked into the world, to be dressed up according to the fancy or the inclination of the readers, or the policy of our enemies.

I write nothing in answer to the letter of Mr. Wangenheim (enclosed by you to me). Were I to enter into corrispondencies of that sort (admitting there was no impropriety in the measure) I should be unable to attend to my ordinary duties. I have established it as a maxim, neither to envite, nor to

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discourage emigrants. My opinion is, that they will come hither as fast as the true interest and policy of the United States will be benefited by foreign population. I believe many of these, as Mr. Wangenheim relates, have been, and I fear will continue to be, imposed upon by Speculators in land, and other things. But I know of no prevention but caution, nor any remedy except the Laws. Nor is military, or other employment so easily obtained as foreigners conceive, in a country where offices bear no proportion to the seekers of them. with sincere esteem &c.

PS. Novr. 5th. Your corrisponde. with New York is, I have no doubt, too frequent and regulr. to render any acct. of Mrs. Jay from me necessary; yet as I was told yesterday by Mr. King[27] that she and all yr. family were well, I chose to mention it. For want of a Senate, Congress cannot proceed to business.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, November 5, 1794.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, I have received your several letters of the 25th. 26th. and 29th. of last month, and am glad to hear that the Troops continued to be in good health and spirits, notwithstanding the bad weather and the Roads; and that further indications of submission were likely to be manifested by the Insurgents.

I have not received the rout of either column of the Army, nor a copy of the order establishing them, issued on the day of my departure from Bedford.

Upon enquiry, I find that it was copies *only*, of Papers, that had been sent from the Secretary of State's Office, the originals being adjudge necessary for the Archives.

[27] Rufus King.

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For want of a quoram in the Senate, Congress have not yet proceeded on business; and it is questionable, it seems, whether it will make a house today; five members being wanting for this purpose, yesterday afternoon.

Bache (as I expected) has opened his batteries upon your motives for remaining with the Army. As the papers (I presume) are sent to you, I shall not repeat them. Although there are some late arrivals, the Gazettes have not, as yet, announced anything new.

Mrs. Hamilton and your family were well yesterday. Mrs. Schuyler and Son (John) and daughter, are there, but talk of going away today, or tomorrow. I am etc.[28]

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, November 9, 1794.

Sir: By Mr. Bayard (a respectable young Gentleman of this City) who will have the honor of presenting this letter to you, I take the liberty of putting into your hands, a work, which only made its appearance a few days ago. "A view of the United States of America in a series of Papers."

I have not read it yet, and therefore shall say nothing for, or against the merits of it, further than that the author is a man of intelligence and accuracy; and (being the Commissioner of our revenue) possessed the means of official information; which, of course, has enabled him to detail matters depending thereon, with truth and precision.

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*From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On November 17 Hamilton wrote to Washington from Pittsburgh: "The list of prisoners has been very considerably encreased, probably to the amount of 150 but it is not yet so digested as to be forwarded. Governor Lee just informs me that he has received a letter from Marietta advising him of the apprehending of John Holcroff the reputed *Tom the Tinker* and one Wright a notorious offender." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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If the performance should afford you any satisfaction, or convey any information which was unknown to you before, it will give pleasure to Sir, Your etc.

*To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, November 9, 1794.

Sir: Your letter of the 2d. of June, with the second edition of your travels; and two sets of the 19th. 20th. and 21st. vols. of your Annals (one set of which I shall send to the Agricultural Society of this City) came to my hands a few days ago only. The letter alluded to therein, as being sent by some farmers, whom you had the goodness to recommend to me, has not yet been received; nor had I, before, heard anything of such men.

If the information which I have had it in my power to convey to you, respecting the climate, soil, agriculture and productions of the central States, has, in any degree, answered the end of your enquiries, or afforded you any satisfaction; the object I had in giving it, is fully accomplished; and my present situation, adds greater reluctance than heretofore, to see, or to know that any hastily written and indigested letters of mine, should be handed, *with my name* to them, to the public.

From not being so explicit as I ought to have been in my letter of my intention, respecting the Negros which reside on my farms, did not sufficiently appear to you. It was not my meaning (if it was so understood) to make it a *condition* that they should be annexed as an appendage thereto. I had something better in view for them than that. To accomodate, not to incumber the farmer, was the idea I meant to convey to you, that is, that he might, or might not as his inclination or interest should dictate, hire them, as he would do any other labourers which his necessity wd. require him to employ.

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To acquire land in fee, is, I am persuaded, *among*, if not the *first* inducement to emigration to the United States and therefore, I never was sanguine in my expectation of obtaining tenants from England, for my lands, on the terms suggested in a former letter. I am satisfied however, that if the midling, and lower classes of your farmers were fully acquainted with the real difference in the taxes of the two countries, it would not be a secondary consideration. To illustrate this, I enclose you the publication of a very intelligent farmer, from the county of Essex in England (A Mr. Lambert)[29] who has lately established himself and family in this country, given from his own actual experience.

I take the liberty also of sending you "A view of the United States of America, in a series of Papers" by Tench Coxe, the Commissioner of our revenue. It is a new work just from the press, which I have not yet read; but as it is the production of an intelligent and accurate man, possessing official information in all matters of a fiscal nature, of the population, navigation, wealth, and resources of the country, you will find more than conjectural accounts and misrepresentation in it although it may be deficient in things interesting, or amusing to foreigners.

I am much obliged by the books you have sent me, and thank you sincerely for the kind offer, of rendering me any other services in your power. With great esteem etc.[30]

To THE VICE PRESIDENT

Saturday, November 15, 1794.

Dear Sir: I have not been able to give the papers herewith enclosed more than a hasty reading; returning them, without

[29] John Lambert.

[30] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

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delay, that you may offer the perusal of them to whom soever you shall think proper.

The picture drawn in them, of the Genevese, is really interesting and affecting. The proposition of transplanting the members, entire, of the University of that place to America, with the requisition of means to establish the same, and to be accompanied by a considerable emigration is important; requiring more consideration, than, under the circumstances of the moment I am able to bestow on it.

That a National University in *this* country is a thing to be desired, has always been my decided opinion; and the appropriation of ground and funds for it in the Federal City, have long been contemplated and talked of; but how far matured, or how far the transplanting of an *entire* Saminary of *Foreigners,* who may not understand our Language, can be assimilated therein is more than I am prepared to give an opinion upon, or indeed how far funds in either case are attainable.

My opinion, with respect to emigration, is, that except of useful Mechanics and some particular descriptions of men or professions, there is no need of encouragement: while the policy or advantage of its taking place in a body (I mean the settling of them in a body) may be much questioned; for, by so doing, they retain the Language, habits and principles (good or bad) which they bring with them. Whereas by an intermixture with our people, they, or their descendants, get assimilated to our customs, measures and laws: in a word, soon become one people.

I shall, at any leasure hour, after the Session is fairly opened, have pleasure in a full and free conversation with you on this subject, being, with much esteem &c.[81]

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, November 16, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: By the Post of yesterday I received your letter of the 11th. instt, with the Reports of the three preceeding weeks; (except those of the Carpenters). I did not write to you last week, not having heard from you by the two Posts before.

I am glad to hear that your Potatoes and Corn are likely to turn out well, and that the Wheat now in the ground looks promising. The last Crop of that article according to your account is miserable indeed, and the Buck wheat not a great deal better. Of the latter, and of the Potatoes save enough for Seed, for next year. It is miserable for a farmer to be obliged to buy his Seeds; to exchange Seeds may, in some cases, be useful; but to buy them after the first year is disreputable.

Let me know from time to time, what prices Wheat and flour are at, in Alexandria; 12/6 for the first, pr Bushl; and £3 pr Barl. for the latter, are the value of them in this City, at present.

The letter from Sally Green to me is enclosed. I have no doubt of her being in very distressed circumstances and am at a loss as to the best mode of affording her relief. That of going to Alexandria, is, I fear, a bad plan; altho', if she was able and in earnest, to take in washing and sowing it would be the best stand for them. What she means by keeping a shop, I am at a loss to understand, it is to be feared her shop wd. be no more than a receptacle for stolen produce, by the Negros: Examine into this matter, and you may aid her in any thing that appears to you feasable, to the amount of twenty pounds in the purchase of things or on credit but not by an advance in money lest it should be fooled away for unessential things which she

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can do without instead of being applied to her real wants or in the purchase of such things as may be turned to advantage. If she goes to town you may give her a boat load of Wood, a little flour, and some meat at killing time; besides what is usually allowed her father. If she goes there her eldest son may derive some benefit from the charity school which is established there at my expence.

If she has not yet decided on her plan she ought to do it immediately; or at any rate, James Donaldson ought to go into the house she is in. I am sorry he did not do it at first, that he might have been kept as seperate, and as distinct as possible from the Negros, who want no encouragement to mix with, and become too familiar (for no good purposes) with these kind of people. I have often said, and I again repeat, that if you can get such a man as would in all points, be a fit superintendant of my Carpenters I would have you employ him, but this fitness ought to be ascertained, otherwise, either from a difference of wages, or some other cause you might discontent the man you have without deriving equivalent advantages.

I do not know, if you should have been disappointed by Pyne, whether the loss will be great, for the more I saw of him, the less I liked him; as he appeared to be more of a talker than an Actor.

I am glad to hear you are proceeding in your fall plowing. I hope it will be pushed vigorously, at all times that the ground is in a good state for this work. And I am not less pleased to find you are cutting up the fallen timber. I earnestly recommend a continuance of this plan; either for Rails where it will make them, or for fire wood; whenever your leizure will permit; as the waste which, heretofore, has been committed all over my land, is shameful.

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What number of good hogs have you put up, or will be able to put up this fall, for Porkers? The Bacon now on hand (with a small reservation) may be disposed of, as it is not within the bounds of probability that myself or any part of my family, can be at Mount Vernon before the next supply will be fit for use, and if the culled sheep and other useful stock cannot be sold they had better (rather than run the hazard of losing them) be salted for next harvest.

Mr. Hawkins,[82] one of the Senators from North Carolina, on his way to this place, left at Mr. Lund Washington's in order to be sent to Mt. Vernon, sundry cuttings of valuable Grape vines for me. The letter herewith enclosed, gives an account of them, and his manner of treating them. Let the Gardner see it; and after taking such accts. of them as are necessary, return the letter to me again.

You proposed when I was last at home, to cultivate in Corn, Rye, or something else, with a view of cleansing the ground, that part of the pasture at the Mansion house which lyes above the hill, adjoining the Wood, North, and No. Wt. of the clover lot by the Quarter. To this I consented, but did not direct it, nor do I now direct it, leaving it to yourself to act from circumstances. I shall require however, if it is done, that a great many of the Trees be left standing (without regarding the injury the *Crop* may sustain by it, for that is only a secondary object). These may be single, or partly single and in clumps, or all clumps; according as from their present standing and appearance, it should be thought they would answer best. If clumps should be prepared, let them be large ones, where they can be so; not less than from 50 to 100 feet in diameter. Let the transplanted clumps be made good this fall, and ensuing spring.

[82] Benjamin Hawkins.

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I will bring to your view, what I was about to do myself the fall before last, with the grounds adjoining to what has been just mentioned; that if it should strike you favorably, you may carry it into effect (but from which I was diverted by the desire of employing the Muddy hole gang of hands in the swamps at D.[33] Run). It was, with that gang, to clear all the land which lyes between the Alexandria road and the pasture fence, from the white gates up to the little old field, for Corn; for that Plantation (muddy hole): instead of tending the worn out fields at that place; but to leave the Trees standing either in clumps, or singly, as they are in the adjoining part, through which the road passes. You will readily perceive that I had a threefold object in this plan; the first was, to open that ground like the adjoining; for ornament, and the enlargement of the pasture; the 2d was, to avoid tending the worn out and gullied fields at Muddy hole; and the 3d, to have a stock of Wood for firing with as little carting as possible. I merely mention the thing at this time, that you may think of it; and see how far it can be made part of the other project within the pasture fence; and that, if it should be thought well of, the field which otherwise wd. come into corn at Muddy hole may lye over.[34] I shall not enlarge, as it is enough to suggest the matter for consideration; and to see how it would comport with, or militate against, the general plan of business. I am sorry to hear that your people still continue sickly; the complaint is general, and in many places mortal. I wish you well and am etc.

[33] Dogue.

[34] The printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), has at this point the following: "(Part at *least* of the ground through which the road to the White gates pass, that has been cleared would also require cultivation to destroy the sprouts, grubs &ca. and to accommodate it better for pasture thereafter.)"

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SIXTH ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

United States, November 19, 1794.[88]

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: When we call to mind the gracious indulgence of Heaven, by which the American People became a nation; when we survey the general prosperity of our country, and look forward to the riches, power, and happiness, to which it seems destined; with the deepest regret do I announce to you, that during your recess, some of the citizens of the United States have been found capable of an insurrection. It is due, however, to the character of our government, and to its stability, which cannot be shaken by the enemies of order, freely to unfold the course of this event.

During the session of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, it was expedient to exercise the legislative power, granted by the constitution of the United States, "to lay and collect excises." In a majority of the States, scarcely an objection was heard to this mode of taxation. In some, indeed, alarms were at first conceived, until they were banished by reason and patriotism. In the four western counties of Pennsylvania, a prejudice, fostered and embittered by the artifice of men, who

[88] Congress convened November 3, but a quorum not being present, it adjourned from day to day until November 18, when a committee consisting of Senators Ralph Izard and John Langdon and Representatives Elias Boudinot, Henry Dearborn, and Nicholas Gilman waited upon the President "to inform him that Congress were ready to receive any communications which he might think fit to make and to know when and where he would choose to make them. The President informed the Committee that he would meet both Houses of Congress tomorrow, at noon, in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, and make such communications as appeared to him to suit the occasion."

This entry is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers:* "November 19th. Agreeably to the arrangement of yesterday, the President, attended by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Attorney General of the U States (the Secretary of the Treasury being absent) repaired at noon to the chamber of the House of Representatives, where the members of the two houses being assembled, he addressed them the following Speech."

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labored for an ascendency over the will of others, by the guidance of their passions, produced symptoms of riot and violence. It is well known, that Congress did not hesitate to examine the complaints which were presented, and to relieve them, as far as justice dictated, or general convenience would permit, But the impression, which this moderation made on the discontented, did not correspond, with what it deserved. The arts of delusion were no longer confined to the efforts of designing individuals.

The very forbearance to press prosecutions was misinterpreted into a fear of urging the execution of the laws; and associations of men began to denounce threats against the officers employed. From a belief, that by a more formal concert, their operation might be defeated, certain self-created societies[36] assumed the tone of condemnation. Hence, while the greater part of Pennsylvania itself were conforming themselves to the acts of excise, a few counties were resolved to frustrate them. It was now perceived, that every expectation from the tenderness which had been hitherto pursued, was unavailing, and that further delay could only create an opinion of impotency or irresolution in the government. Legal process was, therefore, delivered to the marshal, against the rioters and delinquent distillers.

No sooner was he understood to be engaged in this duty, than the vengeance of armed men was aimed at *his* person, and the person and property of the inspector of the revenue. They fired upon the marshal, arrested him, and detained him for some time, as a prisoner. He was obliged, by the jeopardy of his life, to renounce the service of other process, on the west side of the Allegeny mountain; and a deputation was afterwards sent to him to demand a surrender of that which he *had* served.

[36]The Democratic societies.

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A numerous body repeatedly attacked the house of the inspector, seized his papers of office, and finally destroyed by fire, his buildings, and whatsoever they contained. Both of these officers, from a just regard to their safety, fled to the seat of government; it being avowed, that the motives to such outrages were to compel the resignation of the inspector, to withstand by force of arms the authority of the United States, and thereby to extort a repeal of the laws of excise, and an alteration in the conduct of government.

Upon the testimony of these facts, an associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States notified to me, that "in the counties of Washington and Allegeny, in Pennsylvania, laws of the United States were opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed by combinations, too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshal of that district." On this call, momentous in the extreme, I sought and weighed, what might best subdue the crisis. On the one hand, the judiciary was pronounced to be stripped of its capacity to enforce the laws; crimes, which reached the very existence of social order, were perpetrated without controul, the friends of government were insulted, abused, and overawed into silence, or an apparent acquiescence; and the yield to the treasonable fury of so small a portion of the United States, would be to violate the fundamental principle of our constitution, which enjoins that the will of the majority shall prevail. On the other, to array citizen against citizen, to publish the dishonor of such excesses, to encounter the expense, and other embarrassments of so distant an expedition, were steps too delicate, too closely interwoven with many affecting considerations, to be lightly adopted. I postponed, therefore, the summoning of the militia immediately into the field. But I required them to be held in

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readiness, that if my anxious endeavours to reclaim the deluded, and to convince the malignant of their danger, should be fruitless, military force might be prepared to act, before the season should be too far advanced.

My Proclamation of the 7th of August last was accordingly issued, and accompanied by the appointment of Commissioners, who were charged to repair to the scene of insurrection. They were authorized to confer with any bodies of men, or individuals. They were instructed to be candid and explicit, in stating the sensations, which had been excited in the Executive, and his earnest wish to avoid a resort to coercion. To represent, however, that without submission, coercion *must* be the resort; but to invite them, at the same time, to return to the demeanor of faithful citizens, by such accommodations as lay within the sphere of the executive power. Pardon, too, was tendered to them by the government of the United States, and that of Pennsylvania, upon no other condition, than a satisfactory assurance of obedience to the laws.

Although the report of the commissioners marks their firmness and abilities, and must unite all virtuous men, by shewing, that the means of conciliation have been exhausted, all of those who had committed or abetted the tumults, did not subscribe the mild form, which was proposed, as the atonement; and the indications of a peaceable temper were neither sufficiently general, nor conclusive, to recommend or warrant, a further suspension of the march of the militia.

Thus, the painful alternative could not be discarded. I ordered the militia to march, after once more admonishing the insurgents, in my proclamation of the 25th of September last.

It was a task too difficult to ascertain with precision, the lowest degree of force, competent to the quelling of the insurrection. From a respect, indeed, to œconomy, and the ease of

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my fellow citizens belonging to the militia, it would have gratified me to accomplish such an estimate. My very reluctance to ascribe too much importance to the opposition, had its extent been accurately seen, would have been a decided inducement to the smallest efficient numbers. In this uncertainty, therefore, I put in motion fifteen thousand men, as being an army, which, according to all human calculation, would be prompt, and adequate in every view; and might perhaps, by rendering resistance desperate, prevent the effusion of blood. Quotas had been assigned to the states of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; the governor of Pennsylvania having declared on this occasion, an opinion which justified a requisition to the other states.

As commander in chief of the militia, when called into the actual service of the United States, I have visited the places of general rendezvous, to obtain more exact information, and to direct a plan for ulterior movements. Had there been room for a persuasion, that the laws were secure from obstruction; that the civil magistrate was able to bring to justice such of the most culpable, as have not embraced the proffered terms of amnesty, and may be deemed fit objects of example; that the friends to peace and good government were not in need of that aid and countenance, which they ought always to receive, and I trust, ever will receive, against the vicious and turbulent; I should have caught with avidity the opportunity of restoring the militia to their families and home. But succeeding intelligence has tended to manifest the necessity of what has been done; it being now confessed by those who were not inclined to exaggerate the ill-conduct of the insurgents, that their malevolence was not pointed merely to a particular law; but that a spirit, inimical to all order, has actuated many of the offenders. If the state of things had afforded reason for the continu-

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ance of my presence with the army, it would not have been withholden. But every appearance assuring such an issue, as will redound to the reputation and strength of the United States, I have judged it most proper, to resume my duties at the seat of government, leaving the chief command with the governor of Virginia.

Still, however, as it is probable, that in a commotion like the present, whatsoever may be the pretence, the purposes of mischief and revenge may not be laid aside; the stationing of a small force for a certain period in the four western counties of Pennsylvania will be indispensable; whether we contemplate the situation of those, who are connected with the execution of the laws; or of others who may have exposed themselves by an honorable attachment to them.

Thirty days from the commencement of this session, being the legal limitation of the employment of the militia, Congress cannot be too early occupied with this subject.

Among the discussions, which may arise from this aspect of our affairs, and from the documents which will be submitted to Congress, it will not escape their observation, that not only the inspector of the revenue, but other officers of the United States in Pennsylvania have, from their fidelity in the discharge of their functions, sustained material injuries to their property. The obligation and policy of indemnifying them are strong and obvious. It may also merit attention, whether policy will not enlarge this provision to the retribution of other citizens, who, though not under the ties of office, may have suffered damage by their generous exertions for upholding the constitution and the laws. The amount, even if all the injured were included, would not be great; and on future emergencies, the government would be amply repaid by the influence of an example, that he, who incurs a loss in its defence shall find a recompense in its liberality.

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While there is cause to lament, that occurrences of this nature should have disgraced the name, or interrupted the tranquillity of any part of our community, or should have diverted to a new application, any portion of the public resources, there are not wanting real and substantial consolations for the misfortune. It has demonstrated, that our prosperity rests on solid foundations; by furnishing an additional proof, that my fellow citizens understand the true principles of government and liberty: that they feel their inseparable union: that notwithstanding all the devices which have been used to sway them from their interest and duty, they are now as ready to maintain the authority of the laws against licentious invasions, as they were to defend their rights against usurpation. It has been a spectacle, displaying to the highest advantage, the value of Republican Government, to behold the most and least wealthy of our citizens standing in the same ranks as private soldiers; pre-eminently distinguished by being the army of the constitution; undeterred by a march of three hundred miles over rugged mountains, by the approach of an inclement season, or by any other discouragement. Nor ought I to omit to acknowledge the efficacious and patriotic co-operation, which I have experienced from the chief magistrates of the states, to which my requisitions have been addressed.

To every description, indeed, of citizens let praise be given. But let them persevere in their affectionate vigilance over that precious depository of American happiness, the constitution of the United States. Let them cherish it too, for the sake of those, who from every clime are daily seeking a dwelling in our land. And when in the calm moments of reflection, they shall have retraced the origin and progress of the insurrection, let them determine, whether it has not been fomented by combinations of men, who, careless of consequences, and disregarding the

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unerring truth, that those who rouse, cannot always appease a civil convulsion, have disseminated, from an ignorance or perversion of facts, suspicions, jealousies, and accusations of the whole government.

Having thus fulfilled the engagement, which I took, when I entered into office, "to the best of my ability to preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States," on you, Gentlemen, and the people by whom you are deputed, I rely for support.

In the arrangements, to which the possibility of a similar contingency will naturally draw your attention, it ought not to be forgotten, that the militia laws have exhibited such striking defects, as could not have been supplied but by the zeal of our citizens. Besides the extraordinary expense and waste, which are not the least of the defects, every appeal to those laws is attended with a doubt of its success.

The devising and establishing of a well regulated militia, would be a genuine source of legislative honor, and a perfect title to public gratitude. I, therefore, entertain a hope, that the present session will not pass, without carrying to its full energy the power of organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and thus providing, in the language of the constitution, for calling them forth to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions.

As auxiliary to the state of our defence, to which Congress can never too frequently recur, they will not omit to enquire whether the fortifications, which have been already licensed by law, be commensurate with our exigencies.

The intelligence from the army, under the command of general Wayne, is a happy presage to our military operations against the hostile Indians north of the Ohio. From the advices

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which have been forwarded, the advance which he has made must have damped the ardor of the savages, and weakened their obstinacy in waging war against the United States. And yet, even at this late hour, when our power to punish them cannot be questioned, we shall not be unwilling to cement a lasting peace, upon terms of candor, equity, and good neighborhood.

Towards none of the Indian tribes have overtures of friendship been spared. The Creeks in particular are covered from encroachment by the interposition of the General Government and that of Georgia. From a desire also to remove the discontents of the Six Nations, a settlement, meditated at Presqu'isle on Lake Erie, has been suspended; and an agent is now endeavoring to rectify any misconception, into which they may have fallen. But I cannot refrain from again pressing upon your deliberations, the plan which I recommended at the last session, for the improvement of harmony with all the Indians within our limits, by the fixing and conducting of trading houses, upon the principles then expressed.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: The time, which has elapsed, since the commencement of our fiscal measures, has developed our pecuniary resources, so as to open a way for a definitive plan for the redemption of the public debt. It is believed, that the result is such, as to encourage Congress to consummate this work, without delay. Nothing can more promote the permanent welfare of the nation, and nothing would be more grateful to our constituents. Indeed whatsoever is unfinished of our system of public credit, cannot be benefited by procrastination; and as far as may be practicable, we ought to place that credit on grounds which cannot be disturbed, and to prevent that progressive accumulation of debt which must ultimately endanger all governments.

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An estimate of the necessary appropriations, including the expenditures into which we have been driven by the insurrection, will be submitted to Congress.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The mint of the United States has entered upon the coinage of the precious metals; and considerable sums of defective coins and bullion have been lodged with the director by individuals. There is a pleasing prospect that the institution will, at no remote day, realize the expectation which was originally formed of its utility.

In subsequent communications, certain circumstances of our intercourse with foreign nations, will be transmitted to Congress. However, it may not be unseasonable to announce that my policy in our foreign transactions has been, to cultivate peace with all the world; to observe treaties with pure and absolute faith; to check every deviation from the line of impartiality; to explain what may have been misapprehended, and correct what may have been injurious to any nation; and having thus acquired the right, to lose no time in acquiring the ability, to insist upon justice being done to ourselves.

Let us unite, therefore, in imploring the Supreme Ruler of nations, to spread his holy protection over these United States: to turn the machinations of the wicked to the confirming of our constitution: to enable us at all times to root out internal sedition, and put invasion to flight: to perpetuate to our country that prosperity, which his goodness has already conferred, and to verify the anticipations of this government being a safe guard to human rights.[37]

[37] The text is from the official broadside printed at the time by John Fenno, a copy of which is in the Library of Congress.

On November 22 the Senate replied to this address and the President acknowledged the reply on the same day.

On November 29 the House of Representatives also replied to the address, and the President acknowledged the reply on the same day. These replies, as well as the addresses from the House and Senate, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

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*To LUND WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, November 19, 1794.

Dear Lund: I have sent money to Mr. Pearce for the purpose of discharging and taking in my Bond.[88]

On my Books, kept in my absence from Mount Vernon by my deceased Nephew Geo. A. Washington, were articles charged to you as pr. the acct. No 1 enclosed amounting to £18.18.8. The cash payments in discharge of the Bond are contained in the accts. marked No. 2.

On the first, as it was an open acct., no interest is charged, but on the several payments in the second account interest is charged from the dates thereof to the 2d. of October last, and the bond is credited for the same from its date up to that period also. This was the way in which my long and complexed, and perplexed accounts, with Colo. Jno. Mercer were settled, according to the opinion of the then attorney Genl. of the United States, Mr. Randolph.

The reason why the interest account was settled up the 2d of Octr. only, is, that having provided the money in September for taking up my bond, I calculated the interest to that period to avoid odd days; intending, and indeed not doubting, that I should have got the money to you by that day, but the Insurrection, and my preparation (about that time) to move to the westward diverted my attention from this object. It may how-

[88] On November 19 Washington wrote to William Pearce, sending $1,300 to discharge this Lund Washington bond, and added: "Out of the above sum you will also pay to the Trustees of Alexandria or their agent or Treasurer, the sum of fifty pounds; being my annual donation to the charity school at the Academy in that place; due sometime in this month. And I request moreover, that you will pay my annual subscription of ten pounds to the Revd. Mr. Davis (incumbent of the Episcopal Church in Alexandria). When it became due I am unable to inform you; but you may know this from the paper itself, or you may do so from Mr. Herbert, who interested himself to obtain the subscription." A press copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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ever, be paid up to the present time if you require it, notwithstanding the money has lain by me ever since, for the sole purpose of discharging this debt.

If you have any acct. against me, unpaid, for Smiths work,[39] let it be added to, and discharged at the sametime that the whole may be closed as I want to have all my affairs settled.

I wish I could have heard that your sight, as well as your health, was better, from Doctr. Tate. My best regards in which Mrs. Washington unites, attend you both. And I am etc.

To THE SENATE

U. States, November 21, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate: In the negotiation between the U States and his Catholic Majesty, I have received satisfactory proofs of attention and ability, exerted in behalf of the U. S. to bring it to a happy and speedy issue. But it is probable that by complying with an intimation, made to the Secretary of State by the Commissioners of his catholic majesty, much further delay in concluding it may be prevented. Notwithstanding therefore, I retain full confidence in our minister resident at Madrid,[40] who is charged with powers as Commissioner plenipotentiary, I nominate Thomas Pinckney, to be Envoy Extraordinary of the U. S. to his Catholic Majesty, for the purpose of negotiating of and concerning the navigation of the river Mississippi, and such other matters relative to the confines of their territories and the intercourse to be had thereon, as the mutual interest and general harmony of neighbouring and friendly nations require, should be precisely adjusted and regulated; and of and concerning the general commerce between

[39] Blacksmith's work.
[40] William Short.

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the said United States and the Kingdoms and Dominions of his said catholic majesty.

It is believed that by his temporary absence from London in the discharge of these new functions, no injury will arise to the U. States. . . .[41]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, November 23, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 16th. with the reports, except the Carpenters which I have been without for several weeks, came to my hands yesterday.

As I expected, so it happened, my letters to Colo. Willm. Washington of Westmoreland, did not reach him until a few days ago. As you seem to be of the same opinion wch. I entertained at first, namely, that from the easy and simple manners of Donaldson, he wd. not be a fit overlooker of Negros, I have again written to my Nephew concerning the Carpenter in his neighbourhood; and put the letter under cover to you, open, that if you have engaged a person for this business, or have one in contemplation for it that you think will answer well, you may accompany it by a line from yourself to stop his application, otherwise let it go, and wait the result of Colo. Washington's answer which agreeably to my request, I expect you will receive; before you engage any other. In case you should get any one in the place of Donaldson as an overlooker of the Carpenters let him, Isaac and the boy Jem, be kept to the making and repairing of Carts of different sorts, Wheels, Plows, Harrows, Rakes, Wheelbarrows, and all kinds of farming impliments; and tell him, as from me, that I hope, and expect,

[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The omitted part of this message merely nominates some minor officials.

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that he will take pains to instruct both Isaac and the Boy in the *principles* of the work; that I may derive benifit hereafter from his instruction of them.

If you should succeed in getting an Overlooker for the out-doors Carpenters, you will direct the execution of such work as appears to be most wanting; but whether he be a married, or a single man, he must not occupy the rooms in the store house; these, while you remain in what is called the Servants Hall, must be kept for Gentlemens servants, and my own while I am on a visit to Mount Vernon. When you remove to the Ferry (if you mean to do so) and the house you are now in, is restored to its former use, a single man might, in that case, occupy the rooms in the store house in the manner Mr. Whitting did, but it would not be very convenient for a married man (especially one with children) to be there.

Speaking of Gentlemens Servts. it calls to my mind, that in a letter from Mrs. Fanny Washington to Mrs. Washington (her Aunt) she mentions, that since I left Mount Vernon she has given out four dozn. and eight bottles of wine. Whether they are used or not she does not say; but I am led by it to observe, that it is not my intention that it should be given to every one who may incline to make a convenience of the house in travelling; or who may be induced to visit it from motives of curiosity. There are but three descriptions of people to whom I think it ought to be given: first my *particular* and intimate acquaintances, in case business should call them there, such for instance as Doctr. Craik. 2dly. some of the *most* respectable foreigners who may, perchance, be in Alexandria or the federal city; and be either brought down, or introduced by letter from some of my particular acquaintance before mentioned; or thirdly to persons of some distinction (such as members of Congress &ca) who may be travelling through the Country from North to

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South or from South to North; in the first of which, I should not fail to give letters where I conceive them entitled. Unless some caution of this sort governs I should be run to an expence as improper as it would be considerable; for the duty upon Madeira wine makes it one of the most expensive liquors that is now used; while my stock of it is small and old wine (of which that is) is not to be had upon any terms for which reason, and for the limited purposes already mentioned, I had rather you would provide Claret, or other wine on which the duty is not so high than to use my Madeira unless it be on extraordinary occasions.

I have no objection to any sober or orderly person's gratifying their curiosity in viewing the buildings, Gardens &ca. about Mount Vernon; but it is only to such persons as I have described that I ought to be run to any expence on account of these visits of curiosity, beyond common civility and hospitality. No gentleman who has a proper respect for his own character (except relations and intimates) would use the house[42] for the sake of conveniency (as it is far removed from the public roads, unless invited to do so by me or some friend; nor do I suppose any of this description would go there without a personal, or written introduction.

I have been thus particular, that you may have a full view of my ideas on this subject, and conform to them; and because the knowledge I have of my servants is such, as to believe, that if opportunities are given them they will take off two glasses of wine for every one that is drank by such visitors, and tell you they were used by them without such a watch over them as the other business you are employed in would not allow you to bestow.

[42] The printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), reads here: "in my absence."

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I observe what you say respecting the Hogs for Porke, and have to add that so many as are necessary to furnish all those who, by your agreements are entitled to be served with Porke with a moderate allowance for Bacon for the use of the Mansion house should be put up, whether they be old or young; and I wish pains may be taken to cure the latter, as the most of that which was sent to this place was spoiled. The principal reason why I requested that none but full grown Hogs might be put up this fall was that my stock of them another year might be the better for it: but as I do not mean to buy porke, the necessity of breaking in upon the young hogs is unavoidable.

It was an omission of McKoy not to measure his Potatoes when, and as they were taken from the fields; and it is the more to be regretted, as I wanted to know the quantity which grew in each lot, and in a *particular* manner, the quantity that grew among the Corn at that place; that I might see and compare the Crop of Corn and the Crop of Potatoes together; but it would seem as if my blundering Overseers would forever put it out of my power to ascertain facts from the accuracy of experiments. Make your estimate (as I observed in my last) of the quantity of Potatoes required for seed next year, allowing for waste and spoilage, before you use, or sell many. It being my wish that many shd. be planted.

In making the calculation whether it is better to sell Wheat in grain, or in flour, it will be necessary to learn previously whether the first is sold by measure or by the weight, for if 60 lbs. is called a bushel, and the wheat weighs not more than 55 lbs. the difference will be very great when a 100 bushls. by measure is reduced to the bushels it will yield by weight at 60 lbs.

You have never informed me what precise measures have been taken with respect to the trespasses on my land on four

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mile run, neither of what has passed, or prevention. I wish you would see Mr. Minor and converse with him on this subject and act according to circumstances. If it be necessary to survey the land in order to ascertain the trespasses and the boundaries let it be done by some skilful person; the Papers I left with you; the wood is the most valuable part of the tract.

You did very right in putting the amount of Colo. Lyles bond into the bank of Alexandria. Let me know the precise amount thereof. as also of what you deposited there before that I may debit the Bank for it. With this letter you will receive another, enclosing money to discharge my bond to Mr. Lund Washington; my donation to the charity school in Alexandria and subscription towards the Salary of Mr. Davis which I desire may be done without delay. I wish you well and remain etc.

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, November 23, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th. instt. came to my hands yesterday. As Congress are now in Session, and Gentlemen from all the states North of this are assembled, I will make particular enquiry into the characters of the different Siminaries and will let you know the result. In the meantime, inform me how far to the Eastward you would consent that your Sons should go; to come at the *best* schools. There are two or three private Academies in the State of Massachusetts that are spoken very favourably of; the College in that State is also in good repute; but neither in that, nor at Yale College in Connecticut, do they admit boys until they are qualified by a previous course of education. This, however, is not the case with the Seminary here, nor I believe with that at Princeton. The characters of the latter, at this time, I am unable to say, but as the best evidence I can exhibit of my opinion of the one in this place, is, that I am distressed to know what to do with Washington

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Custis; who I am sure derives little or no benefit from going to it. No doubt you have enquired into the reputation of the Colleges at Williamsburgh and Annapolis. The first of these I have, latterly, heard well spoken of; and when I was at Carlisle I heard a good deal said in favor of the Academy at that place; but it was from those who had an interest in so doing.

I ascribed your silence respecting my late letters to the cause you mention, namely, there not having got to yr. hands at an earlier period. What I suspected would be the case, Mr. Pearce (my Manager) informs me is likely to be realised; that is, that the Overlooker of my Carpenters (newly from Great Britain) though a good workman, and apparently an industrious man, has not spirit and activity enough to make the hands entrusted to his charge, do their duty properly I must therefore once more give you the trouble of letting both Mr. Pearce and me know, by Post, as soon as you conveniently can, whether there is any chance of getting the man who has so often been the subject of my letters to you; whether he would come singly, or with the hands he possesses; upon what terms in either case; and when.

I mentioned your giving Mr. Pearce (at Mount Vernon) as well as myself notice, because if he can depend upon that man he will cease his enquiries, and will engage no one else; otherwise, he is directed to do it. My former letters to you on this subject have been so much in detail, that I feel no necessity in going further into it on this occasion; and therefore, shall conclude with my best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington unites, to yourself and Lady. Your sincere friend and Affectionate Uncle.

PS. In your next say to what Post Office letters for you had better be directed.[48]

[48] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

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*To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Philadelphia, November 23, 1794.

Dear Sir: It has not been in my power to acknowledge, with convenience, the receipt of your letter of the 14th. Ulto. until now; first, because it did not get to my hands until my return from the Westward; and 2dly., because my attention ever since, to the present moment, has been occupied in examining the various papers on which my communications to Congress were to be founded.

I do not see how any one can decide so well on the project you have in contemplation as yourself, who has a view of all the circumstances of the case, before you; and who know how far so important a change in the scene, as that of transplanting yourself and family into a new country, is reconcilable to your feelings and dispositions. And because, from the enquiries you have undoubtedly made, you must better know than any other who has not turned his thoughts to the subject, what you can sell for *here,* and buy at *there.*

It has always been my opinion, that new countries (by this I mean the interior of our own) are the best to lay the foundation of wealth, inasmuch as lands which, comparatively speaking, are to be had there cheap, rise in a four fold ratio to what they do in the Atlantic States. and it is to this circumstance, and the opportunities of acquiring them (by being in the scene) that the advantages consist, as, until the navigation of the Mississippi can be obtained, or communication between the Eastern and western waters is made more easy, than is the case at present, the principal demand for the produce of the land is found in the emigrants who resort to it. To this cause also, is to be ascribed the rapidly encreasing prices of those lands.

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In one part of your letter, you talk of removing to Kentucky; and in another, of vesting money in lands No. West of the Ohio, which creates a doubt as to your principal view. You are not uninformed, I presume, that there is no land office open at this time in the last named district; and that there is no means by which land can be obtained there, at present, except by purchase of Army rights, or from some of those companies to whom Congress have sold large tracts: and in the present stage of our disputes with the Indians, that no settlement is thought safe from the scalping knife, that is not under the protection of some fort. The same indeed may be said of the *frontiers* of Kentucky, while the central lands in that State are, as I have been informed, very high. But of these facts you must be better informed than I am.

I should think it perfectly expedient, so soon as you shall have resolved to sell your land on Rappahanock, to advertise it in all the *principal* Gazettes from Richmond to New York inclusively; and not to be too hasty in disposing of it, except for a very good price; as there are reasons to believe that in the course of this winter, and the ensuing Spring and Summer, many men of property from Europe will remove to this country, or send over their property, with a view to invest it, either in our funds, or in lands.[44]

With respect to the other species of property, concerning which you ask my opinion, I shall frankly declare to you that I do not like to even think, much less talk of it. However, as you have put the question I shall, in a few words, give you *my ideas* of it. Were it not then, that I am principled agt. selling negros, as you would do cattle in the market, I would not, in twelve months from this date, be possessed of one, as a slave. I shall

[44] An expected result of the French Revolution.

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be happily mistaken, if they are not found to be a very troublesome species of property 'ere many years pass over our heads; (but this by the bye). For this reason, and because there is but little sale for what is raised in the western country, it remains for you to consider whether, their value would not be more productive in lands, reserving enough for necessary purposes than to carry many there. My love to Mrs. Spotswood and the family. I am etc.[45]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, November 30, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: As the experiment of grinding a hundred bushels of Wheat into flour, is found more profitable than to sell the like quantity in grain; I would have you proceed in the manufactury of what little I have made. and I desire the particulars of the experiment may be sent to me. and the Miller must be careful that he keeps up to it. or I may be deceived thereby.

Caution Sally Green against dealing with my negros after she is fixed in Alexandria. If she deals with them *at all* she will be unable to distinguish between stolen, or not stolen things; and if her conduct should lay her open to suspicion she need expect no further countenance or support from me.

What demands the Mill swamp may have upon your labour for the next year I do not know but independant of this, I should think the Mansion house and Muddy hole gangs, with

[45] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of John M. Glenn, of New York City.

On November 27 Washington wrote to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, introducing a Mr. Hatfield. The press copy of this letter is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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such force as you might draw from the other farms, would not fall much short of clearing up the skirt of woods mentioned in my former letter; and if well grubbed, and thoroughly broke up, it would be infinitely better for Corn than No. 6 at Muddy hole which is extremely poor and much worn. However, as I observed in my former letter I leave the matter to your own judgmt. but desire (not only for the sake of the Corn which will go into the ground, but for the pasture afterwards, and for prevention of sprouts choking it) that every thing may be grubbed that can be grubbed, although it will require more time to clear the land in the first instance. And as it will look as well to be cleared in clumps (letting these clumps be, some of them large, and some small) I would have it done so; as the corn will be much better than if growing among single trees, as was the case in the Enclosure by the white gate. This inclosure might be cleansed and brought into Corn also.

As soon as your Corn is all gathered and measured, let me have the account of it in one view, naming the farms and fields in which it grew. Do the same by the other crops; and I wish to know, as nearly as possible, if McKoys blundering will not suffer it to be done accurately, the quantity of Potatoes that grew in No. 4 at Dogue Run.

Have you fixed nothing yet with Pyne, nor with any other for the Mansion House? The person living there, if you remove to the ferry, ought to be a careful and trust worthy character.

You speak of stuff for sheds, but do not say where. I wanted sheds on the foundations which were laid of brick, at Dogue run, to be erected for the work horses, oxen, &ca. the Corn houses making one of the ends to them. My plan was fully explained to Green, but whether Isaac or Tom Davis understood it, or not, I am unable to say. They were to be half roofs.

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open in the front. so high as to admit horses &ca. freely into them without danger of rubbing their heads or backs.[46]

I will get four or five bushels of clover seed and send it to you in time and shall depend upon your having enough of all other sorts. I am etc.

PS. I hope you received my last letter with the 1300 dollars safe.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 7, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of 30th. Ulto, with the weekly reports, came safely to hand.

By mistake, the sum of £300 was omitted in the charges against my bond, to Mr. Lund Washington; as you have discovered in the above letter. By my mode of settling the *bonded* account, he will be £7. 10. 8 in my debt, and by the mode he proposes, I shall be £51. 12. 11. in his debt. Which of these is the mode by which a Court of Law, or Equity, would settle it, I neither know, nor shall try; all I can say on the subject, I have already said in my letter to him, viz, that Mr. John Mercer settled my acct. with his father's and Brothers Estate by charging me interest on all *his* payments; and when I objected thereto, he said it was the method by which the Chanceller in Virginia settled matters of a like nature; which was confirmed by Mr. Randolph, who was well acquainted with the practice of that Court. However, as I am determined to have no dispute on the subject, Mr. Washington may settle it by which account he pleases, (both are enclosed) or by striking a medium between the two methods, as shall be most agreeable to his own

[46] The printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), has here: "above that to be boarded."

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ideas of justice. Take up my bond, and after tareing my name from it, send it to me. Let all the accounts between him and me be finally closed, and unless there is an absolute occasion for it, do not run me to the expence of smiths work there, or elsewhere, in future.

After you have discharged this account, and such others as are known to be due, from me, place the surplus of the money in the bank of Alexandria and give me an amount of the sum. But on second thoughts, there will be your own wages, the wages of the Overseers, &ca. will be due in a very little time. Let all be paid, for I never like to be in debt to any one, or have any money in my possession that another has a right to call for. You had better therefore pay all these off, *detain what is due to yourself,* and not close, or transmit your accounts until these are done, and the year is ended, that your next, and every account may commence with the new years.

In my last, I desired that my Wheat might all be manufactured and held in readiness for the first good market that shall offer, of which keep me advised. The price of Superfine flour at this place is 65/. pr Barl. and that of fine 62/ and 62/6; Wheat from 9/6 to 12/6 according to quality.

As your crop of fodder this year has been great and got in good season; and much more grass than usual cut, I flatter myself you will have a good deal of hay for sale. Be this, however, as it may, do not sell close until you are able to see your way through the winter clearly. I wish that my horses, and stock of every kind should be fed with judicious plenty and œconomy but without the least profusion or waste. And be particularly attentive whilst you are feeding away the Potatoes to reserve an ample stock of them for seed; as also of Turnips. If there came no more than 600 bushels of Potatoes from the field No. 4 and the lots at Dogue run, the crop must have been a very

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indifferent one at that place; but I was more anxious to know how many bushels grew in the field No. 4 that I might compare it with the yield of the same field in Corn.

I think it would be no unsatisfactory experiment to fat one bullock altogether with Potatoes; another, altogether with Indian meal; and a third with a mixture of both: keeping an exact account of the time they are fatting, and what is eaten of each, and of hay, by the different steers; that a judgment may be formed of the best and least expensive mode of stall feeding beef for market, or for my own use.

You will recollect, that when No. 5 comes into tillage (which I believe it is to do in course next year) that the Woods within the fence is to be cleared up, and prepared also for Corn, in order to supply the place of the two lots by the Barn, and the barn yard itself, which were taken from that field.

I intended that the sheds at that farm, which were intended to be erected on the brick foundations adjoining the two Corn houses, should be shingled with cyprus, and mention it now, that it may not be misunderstd. when the work is gone about.

As the wood on my four mile run tract, is the principal value of it, I would not have you delay enquiring into the nature of the tresspasses; nor in punishing of those who are guilty of them, if the proofs are clear.

How does the new race at the Mill progress? and when do you conceive it will be fit for use?

How does James Donaldson conduct himself? Does he appear to understand *well* those kinds of work which he professes to have been particularly bred to? And has he moved into the house below the hill? caution him against familiarities with the Negros.

I perceive by your last letter that you have moved your family to the ferry, but have left a bed for yourself in the end of the

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Store. If you had liked it better it would have been quite agreeable to me that you should have retained a room in the house, the one in which I believe you were accustomed to lodge, but do in this matter as is most agreeable to yourself.

What was expressed in a former letter respecting the manner of treating visitors to Mount Vernon, was laid down as a general rule; but persons not always recommended, or introduced in the manner I described in that letter, may go there, who are entitled to equal civilities; and in such cases you must be governed by your own judgment; and in this I have so much confidence as to rely on it; being well convinced that your regard for propriety will not suffer any misapplication of the means that may be committed to your care, and as far as it is practicable, that you will not suffer the Servants to misapply them. Therefore, for such occasions, and for the use of the sick, I desire you will lay in a box of claret, and some lisbon, or Tenerif wine, that my Madeira may be reserved, as it is old, and not easy to be replaced, for my own use when I get home. I remain etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 12, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 5th. instt, and the Receipt for the second payment of the lots I purchased on the Eastern branch in the Federal City, came duly to hand.

You are perfectly at liberty to examine my Presses and Trunks at Mount Vernon for any papers I may have respecting the transaction of the Directors of the Potomack Compy or any matters and things which may concern the navigation of that River. Mrs. Fanny Washington has the Master key of all the others; from whom you can get it; but whether the papers you are in pursuit of are to be found in the Press, or in any trunk, I

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am unable to inform you. The keys of the locked trunks are, if I remember rightly, in my writing table; the key of which remains in it.

For many very important reasons (unnecessary to enumerate to you) the navigation of that river ought to be pushed forward with all the celerity which the nature of the work will admit. viewing the matter as I do, I will not neglect any *fair* opportunity of facilitating a visit from Mr. Weston[47] to that quarter, but (under the rose, I must say it) however fair the assurances of his going thither may be, you may take it for granted, that from motives of jealousy, there is a countertide to that measure; and I wish you may not find something similar to it in another quarter, if the operations on the Shenandoah are postponed much longer. Do not forget, how the trade of Fredericksburgh, Falmouth, Hanover town on York River, and indeed Richmond itself will be affected by the opening of this Navigation. I should not be at all surprized therefore, if future applications to the Assembly of Virginia (if there be occasion to make any) respecting it, shd. meet with much coldness and difficulty.

I should not, any more than you; be disposed to confide in the opinion of Mr. Claiborne's[48] Engineer; nor (in confidence to you) to Mr. Claiborne himself; but as he speaks in exalted terms of this man (for you must know Claiborne is now in this City, and has mentioned the matter also to me) a little money might not be misapplied in obtaining the opinion of this Engineer; to see how far it would accord with Mr. Weston's, if he can be got there; without, if he shd. follow after, letting him know what his opinion is. 'Tis possible, this person may unite (as Claiborne says he does) both science and practice. If so, and he should possess other requisites, he might be useful. Tryal of, without a reliance upon him, cannot be injurious.

[47] William Weston, an English engineer.
[48] Richard Claiborne.

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Mr. Jonathan Trumbull has once or twice asked me what reply the Comrs. of the Federal City have made to the letter of his brother John, which I sent to them, be so good as to remind them, or either of them wch. you may first see of this matter. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 14, 1794.

My dear Sir: The day following the one on which I wrote to you last, your letter of the 10th. instt. was received.

It is to be regretted, exceedingly, that delegated powers are, oftentimes, so little regarded; and that trusts of an important nature, the neglect of wch. may be attended with serious consequences, should be suffered to sleep in the hands of those who ought to carry them into activity. Such, from your representation, appears to be the case of the petition which ought in behalf of the Potomac Company, to have been laid before the Assembly of Virginia in due Season.

The *notice* of the presentment of such petitions (which is required by law) cannot, I presume, be dispensed with; and if there be any dereliction to the measures prayed for, the limitation to and expiration of the time for the reception of them, will be urged as a plea for postponement.

The propriety of *my* writing to individual members, or even to the Assembly itself on this subject is, in my mind, a matter that may be questioned; but supposing the case to be otherwise, I do not know who the members are, and such indeed has been the change of things since I mixed in the politics, or much with the people of that State, (out of the neighbourhood of Alexandria) that an entire new set, unknown to me personally, are in the exercise of the powers of government. Tomorrow, however

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I will communicate this matter to Mr. Randolph, and know if he has any acquaintances in that Assembly to whom he could introduce the subject and thereby aid your personal exertions. It is to be lamented however, that in *plain* matters, a little ticklishly circumstanced, such hazards (at least of delay) should be unnecessarily encountered. We are all well, and join in best wishes for you, and I am &c. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 7th instt, enclosing the reports of the preceeding week, came duly to hand.

I approve your idea of clearing up the wood between the fence and the road, and letting it lay over to another year; but quere, would it not be better, instead of cleaning the ground *thoroughly,* and exposing the earth to the rays of the summers sun, to have it *well* grubbed, and lye with all the brush on it until the proper period arrives for breaking it up for Corn? In many places, this is a universal practice; and in the opinion of some (especially in the Northern and Eastern States) an indispensable one. They have two ways of doing this. The one is, by letting the brush lye on the ground until the leaves, and small twigs have fallen, and are beginning to rot; which, when plowed in, occasions putrefaction and fermentation, and of course more product after these have happened. The other is, to let the brush lye (not in heaps, by piling it up, but as it is cut off) until the Spring, and then set fire to it; which spreading over the whole surface, equally, warms the earth, while the ashes serve as a manure. wch. of these is best, or whether either of them are better than to expose the soil to the Sun (as it is of a cold and sour nature) deserves consideration. At any rate I

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agree with you in opinion, that it is best, as you have already plowed up No. 6 at Muddy hole, not to tend the ground (now in wood, and of wch. we are speaking) in Corn next year. My wish, as I mentioned in a former letter, is, that when the ground is cleared, every thing that can be taken up by the Roots may be grubbed; for though more time will be required to do this, yet, in the end, labour will be saved by it; as to lay the grubs all one way, will also do.

I am very willing that you shd. tend the Number of Corn holes at the Mansion house which you propose, and with the force belonging to that place; but do you not mean to comprehend the ground between the Orchard and outer fence, as well as the Orchard itself? the first is necessary in order to clean, and get the ground in order; as bushes and shrubs are spreading over it. But where, and in what manner do you mean to have the communication between the Stables and the pasture below the Hill? The most natural one, at least the one most out of sight, would be by a lane around the clover lot by the Quarters back side. The fence to inclose that field, for Corn, ought not to appear in view of the house; and for that reason shd. discend the hill (far enough to effect this purpose) that goes from the lot where the Potatoes grew last year to where the old cabbins stood.

I likewise think with you that the field between the Meadows and Mill would hardly pay the cost of cultivation until all the woods which are therein is cleared up; and therefore have no objection to letting it remain awhile longer: but I cannot consent, in order to effect this, to be tending the *same* fields over and over again, because they may happen, at this moment, to be in some what better condition. This would be continuing a practice which has been the destruction of my land hitherto, and which my great aim and endeavor is to avoid. By the last

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report from Union farm I perceive you are plowing in No. 6, but for what purpose I cannot conceive, as I have not recollection enough of my plan of rotine to decide whether it is agreeable thereto, but know that it was in small grain last year and in Corn the year before and parts of it extremely poor. Nor do I at this moment call to mind, what field, at that farm, goes into Corn next year; if it be No. 4, as part of it, according to both our ideas had better lay longer untilled, I would ask whether the difficulty might not be made up for the hands thereof by tending the Inclosure between the white gates and the gate in the hollow? Good part of that Inclosure, if the trees were trimmed up, and in some places thinned, would bring (for it has brought) good corn.

I hope, and wish, Allison may turn out well. I know nothing of the one you have engaged, but it is a family of very little respectability, and closely connected with a set of people about my Mill, the Pools particularly, than whom I believe, a more worthless set are no where to be found. It was this Allison too, if I mistake not, with whom Crow spent, or rather mispent much of his time.

I remember well your speaking to me concerning the erecting sheds for the Cattle by the new barn at Union farm and my consent thereto, nor do I object to them now. On the contrary am much pleased that you are extending them to all the farms, but desire that these may not prevent the erection of those I had contemplated by the Barn at Dogue run for the work horses and Cattle, so soon as the Carpenters are enabled to build them.

I perceive you are gathering thorn berries, with which I am pleased; but to turn them to account they must lye buried a year before they are sown, I presume however, you have informed yourself of all this.

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[Is it possible that the Wheat you send to Mill should only weigh 48½ and 49 lbs. pr. Bl.? the Millers report says this.

Let me have the dates of the deposits of the money which you placed in the Bank of Alexandria; they are not mentioned in the Memm. which came in your last letter.

Is Oneil still quarrying stone at Mount Vernon? What has he raised and what has become of it. I remain &ca.] [49]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 15, 1794.

Dear Sir: For the reasons mentioned to you the other day, viz: the Virginia Assembly being in Session, and a plan being on foot for establishing a Seminary of learning upon an extensive scale in the Federal city; it would oblige me if you and Mr. Madison would endeavor to mature the measures which will be proper for me to pursue in order to bring my designs into view, as soon as you can make it convenient to yourselves.

I do not know that the enclosed, or sentiments similar to them are proper to be engrafted in the communications which are to be made to the Legislature of Virginia, or to the Gentlemen who are named as Trustees of the Seminary which is proposed to be established in the federal city, but as it is an extract of what is contained in my Will, on this subject, I send it merely for consideration.[50]

[49] The last page of the press copy is missing from the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is supplied from the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[50] The extract from the will is with this draft. As it varies considerably in words, but not in sense, from the will of July 9, 1799, *post*, it is here given as the only known surviving part of the will which was destroyed by Washington's direction, when he was dying, Dec. 14, 1799:

"It has always been a source of serious reflection, and of sincere regret with me, to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of

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The Shares in the different Navigations to be located, and applied, in the manner which has been the subject of conversations. Yours Affectionately

*To JOHN JAY

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 18, 1794.

My Dear Sir: Since writing to you by Mr. Bayard, about the first of November, I have been favored with your letters of the 13th. of September, and 2d. of October. As the sentiments contained in the first of these, respecting the communications of Mr. M——[51] to the National Convention of France, were also transmitted in a *private* letter from you to the Secretary of State, and replied to by him (both of which I have seen) I shall

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education (perhaps, before their minds are formed, or they have any correct ideas of the blessings of the country they leave). Where, besides contracting habits of dissipation and extravagance, principles unfriendly to republican government, and to the rights of Man, may be imbibed and found difficult to eradicate.

"For these reasons, it has long been an ardent wish of mine, to see some plan adopted by which a general and liberal diffucion of learning could be dissiminated, systematically, through all parts of this rising empire; thereby, and as far the nature of the thing will admit and in itself would be proper, to do away local attachments, and State prejudices from our public councels.

"Hoping that so desireable an object will 'ere long be viewed in the important light I think it merits, my mind is unable to contemplate any measure more likely to effect it than the establishment of a University; where young men from *all parts* of the United States (after having passed through a preparative course of education) may, under Professors of the first reputation in the different branches of literature, Arts and Sciences, compleat their studies; and get fixed in the principles of the Constitution, understand the Laws, and the true interests and policy of their Country, as well as the professions they mean to pursue. And moreover (which is not the least, among the advantages of such a plan) by forming acquintances with each other in early life, avoid those local prejudicies and habitual jealousies which, when carried to excess, are never failing sources of disquietude in the public mind, and but two pregnant of mischievous consequences.

"Under these impressions I give and bequeath for ever, the shares I hold under an Act of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the navigations of the Rivers Potomac and James(*) towards the endowment of a University to be established within the limits of the Federal district, provided a well digested plan for the same shall be adopted for the purpose before the year 1800. If not then &ca. &ca. &ca.

"(*) The shares in the James River Navigation to be otherwise disposed of."

[51] James Monroe.

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dwell no longer on that subject than just to observe 1st, that considering the place in which they were delivered, and the neutral policy this country had resolved to pursue, it was a measure that does not appear to have been well devised by our Minister, 2d, Aware of this himself, and that his conduct would be criticised, he has assigned reasons for its adoption; a summary of which are, that the Navy Officers, and Privateersmen of France, who had resorted to our Ports, and had been laid under such restrictions as neutral policy required from us altho' disagreeable to them; had represented this country (and not without effect) as unfriendly to the French revolution; to do away which, he found himself necessitated to counteract them by strong assurances of the good dispositions of the people of these U: States towards that Nation. and 3dly, Although I think with you, that he stepped over the true line, to accomplish this, yet under the then existing circumstances, the expression of such reciprocal good will was susceptible of two views, one of which, even in the pending state of the negotiation (by alarming as well as offending the B. Ministry) might have no unfavorable operation in bringing matters to a happy, and speedy result; Than which nothing is more desirable, or can be more ardently wished for by the friends of peace and good order, in this country.

As the Secretary of State has written to you several times since the receipt of your statement of the Negotiation, on the 13th. of Septr, I shall add nothing to the observations wch. are contained in his letters, on the subject thereof.

The business of the Session, hitherto, has been tranquil, and I perceive nothing, *at this time,* to make it otherwise, unless the result of the negotiation (which is anxiously expected, by all) should produce divisions. As yet no details have been handed

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to Congress on this subject; indeed no communication of that business has been made to anybody ex[c]ept those about me in the Executive departments.

A paragraph of which the enclosed is a copy, is running thro' all our gazettes; accompanied with a *report* that the United States are contemplated as Mediator between France and England. To ascertain by what authority the first was inserted, Bache, in whose paper it first appeared, has been called upon by the Secretary of State; but no satisfaction has been obtained from him as yet.(*)[52] With respect to the other, it seems to have originated on the other side of the water, and is of a delicate nature; the very idea of which, under the present successes of the French Arms (admitting it should be agreeable to the other power) would, it is conceived, convey unpleasant sensations, and be considered in an evil light, by that nation, unless an intimation to the contrary should first come from them.

The Virginia escheats of British property do not, as I am informed, stand upon the ground, as related to you; but as I am not accurately enough read in the law respecting these escheats to be precise in my recital of it, I will request the Secretary of State to give you the principles thereof.

As I expected, and as you were informed the result wd. probably be, so it has happened; that the western insurrection has terminated highly honorable for this country; wch. by the energy of its Laws and the good disposition of its citizens have brought the rioters to a *perfect* sense of their misconduct without spilling a drop of blood. In the eyes of foreigners among us, this affair stands in a high point of view. With great truth I am etc.

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[52] (*) "Since writing the above, an unsatisfactory explanation has been given." This note, in Washington's writing, is at the bottom of the page.

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*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 21, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 14th. instant with the papers and reports, which were enclosed therewith, came safe to hand.

The whole amount of the Corn Crop I perceive is, 1639 barrels. I perceive also, by the reports of the last week, and I believe it has been as much for several Weeks preceeding, your weekly consumption of this article is 22 barrels to the Stock, and about 14 to the Negros; amounting together to 36 barrls; which multiplied by 52, the number of weeks in a year makes 1872; and is 233 barrls. more than is made. How far this extraordinary consumption has been occasioned by the Hogs which have been fatting, and how far it is capable of reduction, it is more than I am able at this distance, to determine. It wd, if continued, be using *considerably* more than ever was expended on the Estate; for which reason, as I observed in one of my late letters to you, at the sametime that I wish nothing to be starved thereon, I would have the Corn, and indeed every thing else, administered with the utmost œconomy, for hard indeed will it be, upon me, if I can make no more from my estate, Wheat alone, excepted, than is consumed thereon; and from the produce of that article, Overseers wages, and every thing that is bought, is to be paid.

Can you form any judgment from the Oats that have been threshed, what will be the amount of the Crop? I am really mortified at not knowing the quantity of Potatoes that grew in No. 4 at Dogue run, that I might have compared it with the yield of corn in the same field; and thereby decided with more certainty and precision on cultivating of both in that manner. Do you suppose that that field wd. have yielded more Corn if

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it had been planted in the usual way, that is, at the distance of 5½ or 6 feet a part, each way (which would have given about the same number of stalks to the acre) than it has done at 4 by 8. And does the growing wheat in that field, look as well as it does in others, equally exhausted? It is interesting to know this. I wish also to know how the Wheat and Barley, in general looks? and whether this mild autumn has not pushed it too forward? I am equally desirous of knowing how the Clover and other grass-seeds which were sown last spring and winter look at this time? A finer summer and fall never could have happened for them, than we have had.

The price of flour in Alexandria is far short of what it sells at here, ten dollars pr barrl being the price of it in this city. This is an additional inducement to hasten the manufacturing of all the Wheat I have; for as the freight round does not exceed half a dollar, I shall not be disposed to receive there much less than the difference of freight and insurance, between the two places.

When is it probable, with the force that is employed on the Mill race, it will be completed; and the water turned therein? I ask this question because I do not recollect the turn in it which you speak of; nor how far, nor what depth it is, from thence to the upper end of it.

I am of opinion that you had better give the Barn at Muddy hole a thorough repair, and do all the jobs which [are necessary, before the New Barn at River farm is undertaken. I should like to consult you on the spot, before any plan is formed for that; and to know with more precision than I do at present, the advantages, and disadvantages of the one at D Run. As the brick foundations for the sheds which I propose to have built at the last mentioned place, were laid last October, I am surprized to hear you say that nothing can be done towards them 'till the spring, on acct. of the Brick work. Let the

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old Barn at River farm be well shored or propped, to prevent accidents; which if the people should happen to be in it at the time, might prove a direful one.

The field No 4. at that place will require much aid of manure; and much labour to recover it from the gullied state in which it was, when I viewed it last; and no work can be more necessary than to accomplish these; as far as the nature of the thing, and the means you possess, will enable you to perform them.

I am glad to hear so good an account of Donaldson; encourage him to exercise spirit and industry; and convince him that you will support his authority. It may prompt him to exertion, and pride.

I perceive by the Spinning report of last week, that each of the spinners have deducted half a pound for dirty wool. to avoid this in future (for if left to themselves they will soon deduct a pound, or more) it would be best to let them receive none but clean wool. I do not recollect what allowance of provision the Gardener was to have had by any former agreement, but being willing to allow him and his wife what they can fairly eat, themselves, without misapplication, waste, or giving it to others, you might let them have what they require, under those restrictions; and as they have no place out of the Cellars or Meat house, to keep whatever is allowed them, query, whether it would not be better to give it out to them once in a while (weighing it to see how they go on) than all at a time? for they must know, positively, that no part of what they shall receive in any manner, is, by saving, or otherwise, to be considered as a perquisite, and disposed of as such. To what they *can* eat they are welcome; but none shall be sold or given away unless perchance, it may be, now and then be, to a person who visits, and may eat with them. I am etc.

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P. S. I have looked in vain for the Notes, for the Tobo I have in Alexandria; If I should have sent them to you, let Peter carry them to Mr. Lear of George Town; or you might send them by the Post but the Postage you, not he, must pay. If you have them not enquire of Colo Fitzgerald if I did not send them to him.][53]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 21, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. instt. was received yesterday, and I am glad to find that an act of the Virginia Assembly has been obtained for prolonging the term for the completion of the inland navigation of the Potomac. The like I hope has been, or will be obtained this session, in the Assembly of Maryland.

A good opportunity presenting itself on Thursday last, I embraced it, to enquire of Mr. Morris, if the Directors of that company might entertain any hope of deriving aid from Mr. Weston's opinion, respecting the Lock seats at the Great fall of that river; his answer was; "Mr. Weston, from some peculiar circumstances attending their own concerns, had been prevented from visiting that spot, as was intended, but that he was now expected to be in this City in a few days (as I understood) when he wd. propose, and urge his going thither."

The plan of Mr. Claiborns Engineer, as far as I understand it, is to avoid locks altogether. The vessels are received into a basket or cradle, and let down by means of a laver and pullies; and raised again by weights at the hinder extremity of the laver, which works on an axis at the top of a substantial post

*The portion in brackets is missing from the press copy in the *Washington Papers*, and is supplied from the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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fixed about the centre of the laver. On this principle, but differently constructed, Mr. Greenleaf a few months ago shewed me a model, the efficacy of which he seemed to entertain the most exalted opinion. My doubts of the utility of both arise, first, from the insufficiency of any machinary of this sort to bear the weight of the cradle when charged with water, and a loaded boat therein; and its aptness to get out of order by means thereof; secondly I do not find that they are in general use; and thirdly because, if I recollect rightly, Mr. Weston has told me (but of this I am not certain) that no method of raising and lowering boats, had been found equal to that of Locks. Still, as I observed in my last, I should be for hearing the opinions, and explanations of *any,* and *every* Scientific, and practical character that could be easily got at, on this subject: and therefore, would hear Claiborn's Engineer, as well as Mr. Weston; especially as he professes to be particularly well skilled in the application of them, in propelling boats (in an easy and cheap manner) against the stream, and in conducting of water to cities, or for any other purpose whatsoever.

The Bill you allude to has not passed, nor do I know what shape it will take if it does, and therefore can say nothing more on the subject, at this time, than that there will be no precipitancy in engaging either the Agent, or the means of carrying the law into effect; if the measure which I have recommended should be adopted; with the importance of it I am strongly impressed, consequently, if anything should be required of the President towards carrying it into execution, I shall feel it in a *particular* manner my duty to set it a going under the most favorable auspices.

I now have, and for some considerable time have had, twenty five Hogsheads Tobo. in the warehouses in Alexandria; which at sometimes I have forgot, and at other times have been

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indisposed to take the prices which were given for Potomac Tobacco on the Virginia side. Originally this Tobacco was of the best sort, put up dry, and the quality of it reported to be exceedingly good. if the latter is the case still, it will in some respects, and for some purposes, have the advantage of new Tobacco; but what to do with it I know not. In Alexandria it might not bring me 18/. per wt. [*sic*] when in George Town (I mean in the warehouses at these places) it might bring a guinea. I have thought, but whether it be practicable to accomplish it without difficulty, I am unable to decide, that if the Tobacco could be removed from the Warehouses in which it now is, to those in George Town, and be reinspected at the latter, that I might be a considerable gainer by it. But admitting that *this can* be done without encountering impediments which might involve inconveniences; or that would excite notice or remarks neither of which I should incline to subject myself to; it would be previously necessary to know whether the Tobacco would pass at the latter place; for if it should be brought there and be condemned; I should lose the whole, and sustain an expence besides, whereas in its present situation, it will, I presume, command the price currant in Alexandria. If the suggestion here mentioned, can be accomplished (without involving the consequences expressed above) the best expedient that occurs to me to effect it, is, under the idea of its being purchased by, or rather offered for sale to a Maryland Merchant, to have it re-examined where it is, in presence of the George Town Inspectors, who should be paid for their attendance and who should declare to the *supposed* purchaser, whether they would pass it, were it brought to the Warehouses in George Town. If in the affirmative, and there is no other impediment to the measure, the whole business might be easily accomplished by the removal, reinspection,

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and issuing of new notes; either in my name or in that of the supposed purchaser, the last of which, for several reasons I think would have the best appearance. Whether this project can be carried into execution or not, is, to me, uncertain but to avoid delay, and in order to enable you to do it if it should be thought eligable I send you the notes for this purpose, or to know what the Tobacco would sell for where it is, if it be not eligable to remove it. They may be kept, or returned, according to circumstances. In the Warehouses at George Town I have, or ought to have by this time, 9000 lbs of Crop Tobo. as you will perceive by the enclosed letter to me, from Colo. Deakins; the same by this also.

I return Doctr. Currie's letter, with thanks for the perusal of it. The picture drawn in it of the state of things in his own Country, and the details which he gives of those of the belligerent powers, are gloomy *for them* indeed. All here are well and all join in best regards for you, with Dear Sir Your etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 21,[54] 1794.

My Dear Sir: Looking into an old Portfolio which I had not seen this many a day, I found the papers which accompany this note, relative to the River Potomac, I do not know that any of them will be useful to you; but as well for the purpose of keeping them together as to afford you an opportunity of deciding for yourself; they are now forwarded to you.

I also send you the sketch which has been presented to me by Mr. Claiborn, of the new method of lowering and raising boats without locks. It will give you a better idea than my

[54] The date, from the context, evidently should be December 22.

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description which in the letter of yesterday, was capable of doing; and for that reason it is forwarded. I am etc.[55]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, December 23, 1794.

Sir: The letter of which the enclosed is a copy, was received yesterday.[56]

The information wch. it contains being of a serious nature I request that strict enquiry may be instituted into the matter and a report thereupon made to me.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, December 24, 1794.

For carrying into execution the provisions of the Act of the 18 day of this present month, whereby the President of the Ud. States is authorised and empowered to borrow a certain sum of money on the credit of the United States.

I do hereby authorize you the said Secretary of the Treasury, in the name and on the credit of the said United States, to borrow of the Bank of the United States, or of any other body or bodies politic, person or persons whomsoever; a sum not exceeding Two Millions of Dollars, at an interest not exceeding five per centum per annum, and to enter into such agreements for the reimbursement thereof as shall be needful and proper, hereby promising to ratify whatever you shall lawfully do in the premises.[57]

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[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[56] The letter was from Senator Pierce Butler, of South Carolina, dated Nov. 30, 1794, and informed the President that abuses were being committed in the building of the United States frigates. (See Washington's letter to Pierce Butler, Jan. 7, 1795, *post*.)

[57] The Bank of the United States was empowered by the above act to loan the said sum or any part thereof.

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*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 28, 1794.

Mr. Pearce: I have duly received your letter of the 21st. instt. with its enclosures.

Your idea of fencing the ground at the mansion house for Corn, accords exactly with mine (as far as I understand it) except in joining the fence which comes from the first (outer gate) in the hollow to the corner of the clover lot, north of the road, by the deep washed gully. My idea was to continue that fence on, (making a lane there between it and the clover lot there) until it descends the summit of the hill which goes down to the Creek; then continue along that hill, just out of view of the house, and walks about it, by the old Cabbins, until it should strike the outer fence, which runs from the first mentioned gate to the Crk. in the most convenient manner; without enclosing too much ground; that is, without enclosing more than is cultivated. If the first course of fence (as proposed by you from the gate in the hollow) is to *join* the corner of the clover lot as above, how can there be a passage, as usual, into the lower pasture, when the fence from that corner continues round the several Inclosures quite to the Wharf or lime kiln? I conclude from hence that you either misunderstand me, or I mistake you, because in this instance our ideas are not to be reconciled.

I do not conceive that all the grd. comprehended within the line of fence as I have described it, will much, if any, exceed 35 or 40 acres: but of this I speak by guess, never having measured it. The woods without the pasture fence from the Inclosure by the white gate, up to the little old field on the road to Alexandria, I have measured; the contents of which (as you may see

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by the enclosed draught of it) is 74 Acres; and in the part comprehended from the turn in the road, at a kind of pond, to the place where the gate used to stand (on the old road leading into the house) contains [38][58] acres. Within the white gate Inclosure (as the fences runs) there is, to the best of my recollection about 40 acres.

Whether to put this last mentioned inclosure into Corn, with the Union farm hands, or that part of No 4, at that farm which adjoins the lane leading up to the Barn, in Oats, or whether both can be accomplished, I shall leave to your own judgment, with this caution, viz, never to undertake more than you can execute *well;* allowing for the usual chances of weather. I do not hesitate to confess, that reclaiming, and laying the grounds down handsomely to grass, and in woods thinned, or in clumps, about the Mansion house is among my first objects and wishes. If corn should be attempted in this enclosure the trees may, in places, be thinned a little; but not much; but all must be trimmed up. Will knows how to do it. The grubs should be compleatly eradicated to prevent the ground from fouling again with succours &ca. and the hill sides (liable to wash into gullies) ought not to be broke. The other fields at this (Union) farm, will go on agreeably to what is mentioned in yr letter.

And I perceive the rotations for Dogue run, Muddy hole and River farms are right as you have described; and the two first may go on agreeably thereto. One reason why Dogue run has only two fields for cultivation next year is, on account of the Mill Swamps which it has been my anxious wish to get in grass, one lot after another, and in complete order.[59]

For the reason you have mentioned, that is, the want of a partition fence between fields No 4 and 5 at River farm and the

[58] The figure is illegible in the press copy, and is taken from M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[59] Conway's text has at this point "and on acct of grubs in No 5."

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difficulty of enclosing the whole securely, I consent to your managing of them in the manner you proposed next year and letting No 7 lye over to another year, and that you may put Oats and clover in the ground where Buck wheat grew this year, agreeably to your proposal.

In clearing the Wood in No 5 at Dogue run, leave two or three clumps of trees standing, for the purpose of shade and ornament. and by attending to the rotation of Crops at that place you will perceive that No. 4 is to be sown with clover, let this be done at a proper time this winter, or early in the Spring on light snow.

Presuming you keep all my letters, that you may have recourse to them occasionally for the opinions, sentiments and directions they convey to you, I request you will carefully peruse two long letters I wrote to you at your first going to Mount Vernon. Many things were contained therein which require attention; and some others which circumstances might not, at that time permit the execution of, that may be attempted now. Many matters of importance were suggested in those letters, and to refer to them is all that is necessary to[60] view, and into operation where they can be, as I do not know that any change respecting them, have taken place in my sentiments.

In bad weather, when the carpenters are unable to work out, let them prepare frames, shingles &ca. for putting in more dormant windows in the back of the Stables at Mansion house and two in the front part of them; one on each side the pediment, in the centre between it and the ends for the purpose of giving air to the Corn and hay loft.

The weather has been so extremely favorable for ploughing that I hope this part of your business is in great forwardness.

[60] Conway's text has "bring them to view."

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Tell house Frank it is my hope, and expectation (now there is nothing for him to do in the house) that his whole time will not be spent in idleness. He might find enough to do (under the Gardeners directions) in the gardens, yards and lawns. Nor ought Lucy to be idle when she is not Cooking and doing other work about the house. In spinning, knitting and such like things her leizure hourse ought to be employed.

I send you the Seed of the cucumber tree to be given to the Gardener, whose particular care of it I request. He may plant them in the little garden by the Salt house with a label by them. Let him know that Mrs. Washington sent his wife as a present the things contained in the following list by poor Austin, who died on his way to see his wife and family (at Hartford,[61] on Saturday last) of, as is supposed an appoplexy. Mrs. Stiles,[62] at whose Tavern he died has been desired to send on the mare, he road, with her Mule Colt; and all the things (clothes included) he had with him with a list thereof to Mount Vernon, where I hope they have arrived safe; among these was the bundle containing the articles for the Gardeners wife, and another containing two pair of Gloves for Mrs. Stuart. What other things besides his clothes might be in the Portmanteau I know not, probably he might be carrying things home for his wife. I wrote to you by him, but whether the letter may reach you or not is uncertain now.

The Gardener complains of the injury which the shrubs (even in the yard) sustain from the Deer. I am at a loss therefore in determining whether to give up the Shrubs or the Deer! Is there no way of freightning them from these haunts?

[61] Harford, Md.
[62] Mrs. Elizabeth Stiles, of Bushtown, near Baltimore, Md.

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I hope every possible attention has been, and will continue to be used to preserve the Porke from receiving injury from the warm weather.

The enclosed letter from old Butler shews his distress. I think you were perfectly right in detaining part of his wages for lost time; yet, as I can better afford to be without the money than he can, you may pay him for the full time he was at Mount Vernon.[63]

I will endeavor to procure and send you some honey locust seed as I conceive very formidable hedges may be made of them. I find Doll at the Ferry is constantly returned sick; the Overseer at that place ought to see that this sickness is not pretence.

Flour is still at ten dollars a barrel in this City and not likely to fall. I am &ca.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 30, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a report made to me by the Secretary of War respecting the frontiers of the United States. The disorders and the great expenses which incessantly arise upon the frontiers are of a nature and magnitude to excite the most serious considerations.

I feel a confidence that Congress will devise such constitutional and efficient measures as shall be equal to the great objects of preserving our treaties with the Indian tribes, and of affording an adequate protection to our frontiers.[64]

[63] Conway's text has "without deduction."

[64] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, December 30, 1794.

Sir: The considerations which you have often suggested to me, and are repeated in your letter of the 28th. instant,[65] as requiring your departure from your present office, are such, as to preclude the possibility of my urging your continuance in it. This being the case, I can only wish that it was otherwise.

I cannot suffer you, however, to close your public service without uniting with the satisfaction, which must arise in your own mind from a conscious rectitude, my most perfect persuasion, that you have deserved well of your country.

My personal knowledge of your exertions, while it authorizes me to hold this language, justifies the sincere friendship which I have ever borne for you, and which will accompany you in every situation of life. being with Affecte. regard, always Yours.

To THE SENATE

United States, January 2, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate: A spirit of discontent from several causes arose in the early part of the present year among the Six Nations of Indians, and particularly on the ground of a projected settlement by Pennsylvania at Presqu'isle upon Lake Erie. The papers upon this point have already been laid before Congress. It was deemed proper on my part, to endeavour to tranquilize the Indians by pacific measures. Accordingly a time and place was appointed at which a free conference should be had upon all the causes of discontent. And an Agent was

[65] Knox's letter of resignation is in the *Washington Papers*. Timothy Pickering was nominated Secretary of War, Jan. 2, 1795, and confirmed by the Senate the same day.

On Jan. 1, 1795, Washington issued a proclamation, appointing Thursday, February 19, a day of public thanksgiving and prayer. The text is printed by Richardson in the *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*.

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appointed with the Instructions of which No. 1. herewith transmitted is a copy.

A numerous assembly of Indians was held at Canandarqua in the State of New York, the proceedings whereof accompny this message marked No. 2.

The two treaties the one with the Six Nations, and the other with the Oneida, Tuscarora and Stockbridge Indians dwelling in the Country of the Oneidas, which have resulted from the mission of the Agent, are herewith laid before the Senate for their consideration and advice.[66] The original engagement of the United States to the Oneidas is also sent herewith.[67]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 4, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have received your letter of the 28th. of last month with its enclosures, and am sorry to hear you were unwell, at that time; but hope you have quite recovered. the warmth, and changeability of the weather have been productive of violent colds in this part of the country.

Such has been the goodness of the last autumn; and mildness and openess of the winter, hitherto, that I hope all the Oat grounds will be got in good order for early Seeding of this grain, and clover, (where the latter is to accompany it;) for I have always found that late sowed oats, or clover, unless followed by a dripping spring, and in other respects suitable weather, rarely come to much. Dry and hot weather prevents the growth of the first, and entirely destroys the latter, in the young and tender stage of its growth.

After getting out as many of your *best qualitied* Oats for Seed, as the ground by the rotations, and such other as you shall

[66] The Senate ratified this treaty of Nov. 11, 1794, and the treaty with the Oneidas *et al.* on Jan. 9, 1795.

[67] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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allot for them, may require, take care that the residue is not used so near as to disfurnish my horses when I may come to Mount Vernon; which, probably, will be twice between the adjournment of Congress on the 3d. of March, and their meeting again in autumn. The first for a flying trip (as soon as the roads will permit me to travel after the adjournment) with not more than five horses; the other, during the hot weather, for a longer term; and with more than double that number of horses; as Mrs. Washington and the family will accompany me.

What chimney has fallen, by wch. negro children were hurt, and how are they now? Under real, or pretended sickness, I perceive Doll, at the Ferry, rarely does any work; it would be well to place her in a situation where her ways can be attended to. If she is really unable to work, none will be required of her; if she is able, deceitful complaints, of which she is very capable of making, ought not to avail her.

Pursue the rotation of Crops at Dogue run farm rigidly, in all its parts; and as directed, in all the fields. However I may license alterations, and departures from it at the other farms, I will not deviate from it in the smallest degree at this. Therefore, clover must be sown on the Wheat in No 4, (and I hope in good time, and the sooner the better), and Potatoes is to be planted in No 5, along with the Corn; in the same manner they were last year in No 4. Let the rows of each, range No and South; that is as the fence between No 5 and the wood runs. As soon as the clover seed comes to this market, and a vessel is up for Alexandria, I will ship you five bushels of it; if more be wanting, let me know it, as I am not disposed to stint the ground, nor to prevent your putting it into any lots you may think proper; or to scatter seed in places where it is now too thin, if you conceive benefit will result therefrom.

A year or more ago, I had made, in the neighbourhood of this City, a large and strong plough for turning a broad and

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deep furrow. This plow I sent to Mount Vernon to be employed for those purposes; and in November 1793, a drilled plow which had been sent to me from England, I also shipped at this place for Mount Vernon. Has the first ever been used? and to what useful purposes can the other be applied? I forgot when I was at Mount Vernon in June last, to enquire for either of these plows, and the latter (that is the drilled plow) having arrived here, and was reshipped during the prevalence of the Yellow fever in this City, I never saw it. consequently know not for what uses it was intended, or is fit for. I wish you well and am etc.

To PIERCE BUTLER

Philadelphia, January 7, 1795.

Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to favor me, dated the 30th Novr. came duly to hand, a copy of which, immediately upon the receipt thereof, I transmitted to the Secretary of War (in whose department the building of the Frigates is) with directions to cause an enquiry into the abuses of which you made a general complaint, and report the result to me.

It would have been satisfactory, and might have contributed essentially to expedite this enquiry if you had been so obliging as to have pointed your information to the particular instances of abuse. I am etc.[68]

To DANIEL CARROLL

Philadelphia, January 7, 1795.

Dr. Sir: You will consider this Letter as coming from me in my private capacity, at the sametime I do not object to the communication of the sentiments to your colleagues in Office.

You will recollect no doubt that I yielded my assent to Mr. Greenleaf's first proposition to purchase a number of Lots in

[68] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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the Fedl. City (altho' I thought the price he offered for them was too low) because matters at that time, seemed to be in a stagnant state, and something was necessary to put the wheels in motion again. To the second sale wch. was made to him, my repugnance was greater, in as much as the necessity for making it was not so apparent to my view, and because another thing had become quite evident, viz: that he was speculating deeply, was aiming to monopolize deeply, and was thereby laying the foundation of immense profit to himself and those with whom he was concerned.

Viewing the matter in this light, you will readily perceive, at the first glance, how much my sentiments are opposed to any more *large* sales, if there be *any other* resource by which money can be obtained to carry on your operations.

The sum which will be necessary to compleat the public buildings and other improvements in the City, is very considerable. You have already, if I mistake not, disposed of more than a moiety of the Lots which appertain to the Public; and I fear not a fourth part of the money necessary for that purpose, is yet provided. The persons to whom you have sold are reselling to others (subjecting them to the conditions to which they are made liable themselves) and this they are doing to an immense profit. Lately, a Gentleman from England, has paid, or is to pay £50,000 for 500 Lots. Will it not be asked, why are speculators to pocket so much money? Are not the Commissioners as competent to make bargains?

The business, I conceive, is now fairly on its legs, to sell therefore by wholesale faster than is indispensably necessary to keep the machine in proper motion will probably (as property is rising there) be deemed impolitic. And to part with the legal title to the Lots (especially in large sales of them) on personal security, may be hazarding more than prudence will warrant.

For a variety of reasons, unnecessary to be enumerated, tho' some of them are very important, I could wish to see the force

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of your means directed towards the Capitol in preference to the other public buildings. With great esteem I am etc.[69]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 8, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before Congress copies of acts passed by the legislatures of the States of Vermont, Massachusetts and New York, ratifying the amendment proposed by the Senate and House of Representatives at their last session, to the Constitution of the United States, respecting the judicial power thereof.[70]

The Minister of the French republic having communicated to the Secretary of State certain proceedings of the Committee of public safety[71] respecting weights and measures, I lay these also before Congress.

The Letter from the Governor of the Western territory,[72] copies of which are now transmitted, refers to a defect in the judicial system of that territory. deserving the attention of Congress.

The necessary absence of the Judge of the District of Pennsylvania upon business, connected with the late insurrection, is stated by him in a letter, of which I forward copies, to have produced certain interruptions in the judicial proceedings of that District, which cannot be removed without the interposition of Congress.[73]

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[69] The draft, in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge, is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[70] The Eleventh Amendment. It was ratified by Delaware, the twelfth State, Jan. 23, 1795.

[71] Of France.

[72] Gov. Arthur St. Clair, of the Northwestern Territory. His letter of Dec. 15, 1794, is printed in the *Territorial Papers of the United States* (C. E. Carter, editor), vol. 2, p. 499.

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, January 9, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st. instt. has been received, but not so soon after the date of it as might have been expected; and not recollecting in time, that this was Post day for the Southward, I shall confine myself to a simple point, namely, to inform you as I have been informed myself that in a late meeting of the Canal Company of this State, permission was given to Mr. Western[74] to visit the Lock Seats at the Great falls of Potk, and that he might be expected there about the first of next month. I am etc. [H.S.P.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 11, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 4th. instt, with the reports, is received, but the Miller I perceive has left off, or rather I believe, has not yet begun to report what wheat is manufactured, and what flour is made. The price of both these articles have fallen in this market as well as in that of Alexandria; but as I see no permanent cause for it, and know that the last years crop of Wheat was very short indeed, in all parts of the United States I have no doubt of its getting up again if the holders of it, and the flour are not too precipitate in their Sales thereof.

My ideas with respect to the Inclosure for Corn at the Mansion house, (within the present pasture fence) are clearly understood by you; and I wish the fence to run accordingly; and if all the ground which shall be inclosed by it cannot be cultivated in this article I should prefer putting that part into it

[74] Weston.

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which you deem (and I believe very properly) the poorest for the produce of either part, is not so much an object with me, as cleaning, ornamenting, and laying the grounds to grass; after preparing and improving of them as fully as my means will allow. On this principle also it is, I tend the field by the White gates; and want to clear up (as fast as I can) the woods between the Alexandria road and the pasture fence. That the grubbing in this wood will be found very bad I have no doubt, and though the clearing of it may not keep pace with my wishes, yet my expectations are not unreasonable. All the force that can be bestowed in the accomplishment of these objects, I wish may be given; but I do not mean that labour, more essential at other places, is to be neglected in order to effect them.

As I shall be at Mount Vernon (if nothing unforeseen prevents it) before the Corn in the white gate inclosure will be planted the thinning of the trees in it may be left till I come; but the visto's as well as the other parts of the field had better be plowed[75] that the whole face of the ground may be smooth and even. When you clean up within the pasture fence, do not meddle with the trees that grow on either side of the road leading to the first gate on the sides of the hills, nor in the valley which leads from the first gate for some distance up it. The lane back of the clover lot will pass over very bad and dangerous grd. for horses, or stock of any kind to be crowded and quarrelling in; but you will, I have no doubt, fall upon some expedient to guard against the accidents which otherwise might arise from the deep gullied part of it.

My plan for the two sheds at Dogue run (one on each side of the barn, and adjoining the Corn houses, which were to

[75] M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), has the word "altogether."

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make the[76] ends of them) was, to lay Cills on the brick foundations, which were intended to be raised high enough above the ground, to prevent their rotting. On these Cills a frame was to be erected, the plate of which was to be high enough to be out of the way of the horses heads with a range of troughs for feeding; and either racks, or places back of the troughs or mangers as in the stables at the mansion house for Hay. The backs, and ends next the barn to be boarded up: and the fronts also, as low as to admit a tall horse to pass under with ease. The Posts and studs may be placed at such distances as to suit for Stalls now, or hereafter. The enclosed rough sketch,[77] with what I have hear said, will give you a full idea of my design. A door in the middle of each shed must be left, through which to carry out the dung, or litter to the Stercoraries back of them.

As it is my wish to plant many Irish potatoes this year, be sure to reserve enough for seed, by making ample allowance for thefts, waste, and rotting. I shall send you by the first Vessel at least[78] a bushel and half of clean honey locust seed which I would have raised in a nursery for the purpose of hedging. By an experiment I have made a (large) quart contains 4,000 seed; this, allowing ten Seed to a foot, would sow, or plant, four rows of 100 feet each; at this rate, 40 quarts (which I think you may count upon, at least) would require 160 rows; grd. for which I would have you prepare whenever you shall find most convenient, that the Seed may be put in as soon as it arrives: two feet apart will be enough for the rows, as to weed the plants until they are fit to transplant is all that will be required.[79]

[76] Conway's text has the word "South."

[77] A faint press copy of this "rough sketch" is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Mar. 27, 1796.

[78] The words "at least" are not in Conway's printed text.

[79] Conway's text has, at this point, "and this will be done in two years."

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I am sorry to hear that French Will is resuming his old tricks again. The lye he tells, respecting my promise of freedom to him, after seven years service, carries its conviction along with it; inasmuch as I had no certainty of holding him an hour after Mrs. French's death; which might have happened within the year I hired him; how then could I promise freedom to a person I held under such a tenure? Harsh treatment will not do with him; you had better therefore let him piddle, and in this way (though I believe little trust is to be placed in him) get what you can out of him.

What is the matter with Dick at Dogue Run who has been reported lame for sometime? I am etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, January 12, 1795.

My dear Sir: On friday last I wrote you a few lines, and assigned reasons for not writing more fully.

In addition to what I then said, which was only to inform you that permission had been given by the Canal Company of this State for Mr. Weston to visit the falls of Potomack, and that he might be expected at the federal city about the first of next month I shall notice with concern, it being contrary to the heretofore entertained opinion, that the funds for carrying on that navigation are, from your view of them, likely to fall short £10,000 Sterlg. of the object.

What expedient had best be adopted for supplying the deficiency, merits serious consideration under existing circumstances. On an abstract view of the case I should give it as my opinion without hesitation, that the present stockholders ought to continue their advances until the final completion, and for this plain and interesting reason, with me, that no speculation

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to which money can be applied, will be more productive with so much honor and so little risque. But how far the majority of the company (many of whom, probably never bestowed a thought on the subject) may be of this sentiment, or how far their inclination and abilities might induce the adoption of the measure if they were is not for me to decide; and as individuals of the company will be as free as others to become purchasers if the shares are encreased, it does not appear to be a matter of much moment which of these modes is prefered or whether by loan if the money is to be obtained.

No doubt remains in my mind of what will be the productiveness of the tolls when the navigation is in full operation. To the best of my recollection they were calculated to amount (at the time of passing the Acts of incorporation) to 15 pr Ct. on the capitol, by an estimate which was then made of the several articles which, from their contiguity it was known would be water borne. Since that period, the population of the counties bordering on the river, and of course the produce arising therefrom, has encreased greatly and when the Shenandoah is added thereto (which formed no part of the original estimate) it must be equal to the most sanguine expectation.

Mr. Claiborn's Engineers (for it seems he has *two* for different purposes) are fixed in this City; either of wch, according to the use for which you want one, might be had at any time; but as I am not strongly impressed with a belief that men of eminence would come to this country in the manner and under the circumstances they have done (but this I say without having any knowledge of the real characters of these Gentlemen, and without design to injure them) might it not be politic to obtain the opinion of the most competent of them, before Mr. Weston (who is known to be a scientific and experienced engineer) gives his? He will not adopt their opinions contrary to

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his experience and judgment; but if his opinion is first taken and transpires, it may be given into by them from the want of these in themselves, endeavouring thereby to erect a character on his foundation.

I am much obliged by the trouble of your enquiries respecting my Tobacco in the Warehouses at Alexandria and George Town; and as the disposal of it is somewhat out of my way at present, and in truth is a matter that rarely occurs to me except when I am reminded of it by Mrs. Washington you would add to the favor by making sale of it on such terms, and whensoever in your judgment the moment is favorable. I am in no hurry nor under any necessity to precipitate the Sale; and to your judgment also it is left, to continue where it is, or to remove the Tobacco from Alexandria to George Town.[80]

We are all tolerably well and join in good wishes, and the compliments of the season to you. With regard and Affection I am &c. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ISRAEL SHREVE

Philadelphia, January 14, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 23d. of December came to my hands yesterday.

The land on which you live is yet unsold, and such are the number of Emigrants to, and the desire of Europeans for, investing their money in this country (particularly in lands) that I have no doubt of the impolicy, considered merely in an interested point of view, of parting with mine west of the Alligany Mountains at any price they would command at the

[80] Lear & Co. appear to have bought this tobacco from Washington in March, 1795, paying £111:8:4 ($297.11), according to the memorandum on account filed in the *Washington Papers*, March 5.

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present moment; but being more disposed to receive the interest of whatever sum they will fetch, than to be at the trouble of tenanting and collecting of rents; and wishing at the same-time as you are an occupant of what I hold in Fayette county, that you should not be dispossed by the sale of it to another: I have come to a resolution to offer you the whole of that tract (which with the allowance of 6 pr Ct. makes nearly 1744 acres) for the sum of four thousand pounds Pennsylvania Curry: which is a very trifle more than what you have offered, viz., Six dollars pr acre: One fourth of this sum is to be paid at the time of conveyance, which must be on, or before, the first of June, and the other three fourths in five years with interest at Six pr. Ct. annually paid, and precisely when it becomes due, at the place of my residence; or, which would be equally convenient and agreeable to me, to be secured in one of the Banks of this city, or in one of those of Baltimore, Alexandria, or the federal city.

I will await until the last of next month (February) for your answer; before which, if there does not arrive a full, and unequivocal acceptance of the terms here offered, I shall consider myself as at perfect liberty to alter these conditions with you, or to dispose of the land to any other thereafter.

If you accede to these proposals, and notice thereof is given to me as above, I will put the deeds and other papers, into the hands of Mr. Ross for the purpose of closing the business by effectual written instruments, in behalf of us both. Until which no sale is to be made by you, nor is any change to take place with the tenants who are now on the land by proper authority. With esteem etc.[81]

[81] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

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*To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, January 15, 1795.

Sir: I avail myself of your obliging offer to dispose of the lands I hold in the counties of Fayette and Washington; hereby empowering you to sell the same on the terms which have been mentioned to you.

If one fourth of the money is paid at the time of conveyance, or within a short period thereafter, I would allow four, five or six years credit for the other three fourths; provided the payment thereof be well secured agreeably to contract; and the interest in the meanwhile assured with punctuality, as it becomes due, in one of the Banks of this city, or in either of those of Baltimore, George town or Alexandria. The regular payment of which, at stated periods being a primary consideration with me.

The tract in Fayette County contains 1644¼ acres besides the usual allowance of 6 pr. Ct. The other, by Patent, is 2813 acres but by a re-survey was found to measure more than 3000 Acres. A description of them would be nugatory, the presumption being that, the purchaser, whomsoever he may be, will examine the land and judge for himself. It may not be amiss however, that it should be generally known that both tracts are improved, and that one of them has a Mill thereon, and a considerable shew of Iron ore within less than 30 yards of the Mill house.

Having from long experience found, that landed property at a distance from the proprietor, who is not able to pay attention to it, is more productive of plague than profit, I feel strongly disposed to sell all the lands I hold on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa; (about 33,000 Acres The exact quantity in these

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7 surveys is, 32,373 Acs. in Seven Surveys) provided I can obtain, by giving a pretty long credit, what I conceive it is worth. For the reason already mentioned, a *particular* description of these lands would, in a manner, be useless; but it may not be amiss to add, that they are the cream of the country in which they lye; the first chosen of it; and are entirely free from disputes of every kind. The whole is interval land, bounded by the rivers above mentioned, and margin'd by them 57 Miles. They consist of three Surveys on the Ohio, and four on the Great Kanhawa. The first named, are on the East side of the River; betwn. the little and great Kanhawa; the first of these tracts, is the first *large* bottom below the mouth of the little Kanhawa, and about 13 miles from Mariatte; containing 2314 acs., bounded by the river 5¼ miles. The 2d. tract is the 4th. large bottom (on the same side of the River) about 16 miles lower down, containing 2448 acres, bounded by the river 3¼ miles, the third tract, is the next large bottom, 3½ miles lower down, opposite nearly to the great bend, containing 4395 acres, with a margin on the River of five miles. The other four tracts are on the Great Kanhawa, as observed before. The first of them, is on the West side; beginning about two miles from its confluence with the Ohio, and bounded by the former 17 miles; containing 10,990 acres. The secd. tract is on the East side of the river, a little higher up, and contains 7276 acs. bounded by the river 13 miles. The other two are at the mouth of Cole river, on both sides the Kanhawa and in the fork between; containing together 4950 Acres having a front on the river (both sides) of twelve miles. Besides these, I have a small tract of 587 Acres on the Ohio, called the round bottom; lying opposite to the mouth of Pipe Creek, which is about 15 miles below Wheeling; but nothing short of a large price would induce me to part with this tract, it is bordered by the river

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2¼ miles. The soil is of the very richest quality, is in the shape of a horse shoe, with a beautiful situation for a house thereon.

Any services you can render me in the disposal of these lands on the terms I have conversed with you, respecting them, would be gratefully acknowledged by, Dear Sir Your etc.

[N. Y. P. L.]

To ELEANOR PARKE CUSTIS

Philadelphia, January 16, 1795.

[Dear Nellie:] Your letter, the receipt of which I am now acknowledging, is written correctly and in fair characters, which is an evidence that you command, when you please, a fair hand. Possessed of these advantages, it will be your own fault if you do not avail yourself of them, and attention being paid to the choice of your subjects, you can have nothing to fear from the malignancy of criticism, as your ideas are lively, and your descriptions agreeable. Let me touch a little now on your Georgetown ball, and happy, thrice happy, for the fair who were assembled on the occasion, that there was a man to spare; for had there been 79 ladies and only 78 gentlemen, there might, in the course of the evening, have been some disorder among the caps; notwithstanding the apathy which *one* of the company entertains for the "*youth*" of the present day, and her determination "never to give herself a moment's uneasiness on account of any of them." A hint here; men and women feel the same inclinations to each other *now* that they always have done, and which they will continue to do until there is a new order of things, and *you,* as others have done, may find, perhaps, that the passions of your sex are easier raised than allayed. Do not therefore boast too soon or too strongly of your insensibility to, or resistance of, its powers.

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In the composition of the human frame there is a good deal of inflammable matter, however dormant it may lie for a time, and like an intimate acquaintance of yours, when the torch is put to it, *that* which is *within you* may burst into a blaze; for which reason and especially too, as I have entered upon the chapter of advices, I will read you a lecture drawn from this text.

Love is said to be an involuntary passion, and it is, therefore, contended that it cannot be resisted. This is true in part only, for like all things else, when nourished and supplied plentifully with aliment, it is rapid in its progress; but let these be withdrawn and it may be stifled in its birth or much stinted in its growth. For example, a woman (the same may be said of the other sex) all beautiful and accomplished, will, while her hand and heart are undisposed of, turn the heads and set the circle in which she moves on fire. Let her marry, and what is the consequence? The madness *ceases* and all is quiet again. Why? not because there is any diminution in the charms of the lady, but because there is an end of hope. Hence it follows, that love may and therefore ought to be under the guidance of reason, for although we cannot avoid first impressions, we may assuredly place them under guard; and my motives for treating on this subject are to show you, while you remain Eleanor Parke Custis, spinster, and retain the resolution to love with moderation, the propriety of adhering to the latter resolution, at least until you have secured your game, and the way by which it may be accomplished.

When the fire is beginning to kindle, and your heart growing warm, propound these questions to it. Who is this invader? Have I a competent knowledge of him? Is he a man of good character; a man of sense? For, be assured, a sensible woman

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can never be happy with a fool? What has been his walk in life? Is he a gambler, a spendthrift, or drunkard? Is his fortune sufficient to maintain me in the manner I have been accustomed to live, and my sisters do live, and is he one to whom my friends can have no reasonable objection? If these interrogatories can be satisfactorily answered, there will remain but one more to be asked, that, however, is an important one. Have I sufficient ground to conclude that his affections are engaged by me? Without this the heart of sensibility will struggle against a passion that is not reciprocated; delicacy, custom, or call it by what epithet you will, having precluded all advances on your part. The declaration, without the *most indirect* invitation of yours, must proceed from the man, to render it permanent and valuable, and nothing short of good sense and an easy unaffected conduct can draw the line between prudery and coquetry. It would be no great departure from truth to say, that it rarely happens otherwise than that a thorough-paced coquette dies in celibacy, as a punishment for her attempts to mislead others, by encouraging looks, words, or actions, given for no other purpose than to draw men on to make overtures that they may be rejected.

This day, according to our information, gives a husband to your elder sister,[82] and consummates, it is to be presumed, her fondest desires. The dawn with us is bright, and propitious, I hope, of her future happiness, for a full measure of which she and Mr. Law have my earnest wishes. Compliments and congratulations on this occasion, and best regards are presented to your mamma, Dr. Stuart and family; and every blessing, among which a good husband when you want and deserve one, is bestowed on you by yours, affectionately.[83]

[82] Martha Parke Custis married Thomas Law.
[83] From Custis's *Recollections of Washington* (Philadelphia: 1861).

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*To CHARLES MORGAN

Philadelphia, January 17, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 26th. of November came safe (but not expeditiously) to hand.

I hope Colo. Cannon has, long 'ere this, surrendered, to you, *all* the papers respecting my business, which are in his possession; together with a full, and complete statement of what is due to me from the tenants, or from himself, up to the period of your taking the management of it yourself; and that you will be able, without further procrastination or difficulty, to collect the amount of what may be found due to me, from both.

As I am more inclined to sell, than to rent the lands I hold on the Western waters, and giving leases, although a short term, may be a hindrance to the former, I would have you rent from year to year *only*. I have no doubt of obtaining what I ask for the tract in Washington (giving credit), viz, four dollars an Acre; the number of full handed emigrants that are pouring into this country from all quarters owing to the disturbed state of Europe, and the quantity of money brought by them, and sent over by others, to be vested in lands have given an astonishing start to the price of this article. If therefore I do not sell soon on the terms I have just mentioned I shall raise my price.

If I do not sell my lands on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa in a lump, or at least by whole tracts, they will not be sold at *all, by me;* these will fetch me fifty pr Ct. more at this time than I would have sold them for two years ago. I am etc.[84]

[84] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Lucien Buckner, of Louisville, Ky.

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*To GEORGE LEWIS

Philadelphia, January 18, 1795.

Dear Sir: Herewith you will receive Plats, and descriptions of two tracts of land which I hold in Kentucky, on the Waters of Rough Creek. If you have any knowledge of the land in the part of the country these are said to lye in; or if your brother John or any other, within your reach has, I shd. be obliged to you for such information respecting them as can be obtained. I wish also to know in what part of the State of Kentucky they lye; and what the selling price of lands thereabouts is. In a word, what you think mine are worth from the description given of them, and part they lye in.

The papers I send are copies, which you may keep; and when you go in to Kentucky, as I think you said it was your intention to do the coming spring, I would thank you for investigating this subject fully; and for writing me a particular account of the Land, and what you suppose it is worth and would sell for; whether they lye in, or out of the settled part of the States, what the properties of the land are, and whether the streams with which it is said to abound, are fit for water works. If they lye near your own lands I could wish to receive the details from your own view of them, and observation thereon.

My love to Mrs. Lewis, in which your Aunt and the family join, concludes me your sincere friend and affectionate Uncle.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 18, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Not having received the usual letter and reports, which always arrive by Saturdays Mail, I have less to communicate in this letter.

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I forgot in my last letters to remind you of filling the Ice house, whenever you were furnished with the means. The necessity of doing it, has not, I hope escaped you. One caution I wished to have given you in time, before this work was in hand; and that was, to be very attentive to the floor. By means of the dampness, the wood decays very fast; if then the joists should be rotten, and give way when Ice, and perhaps people were upon the floor, they, and all who are below pounding the Ice, might be killed, or cripled.

Now that the honey locust seed is collected, I find there will be near, or quite two bushels of clean seed. Ground sufficient to receive this well inclosed must be prepared for the reception of it, as this and clover seed will be sent by the first vessel after the navigation is free.

Speaking of clover seed, I hope advantage has been taken of the present Snow, or will be of the next, to sow No 4 at Dogue run with this article. A light Snow in Jany. or February is considered as advantagious for this purpose; as the seed is sufficiently buried by the Snow dissolving and can besides, be sown with greater regularity and certainty on the Snow than when the ground is uncovered.

How deep is the present snow with you? and what is the greatest depth of any you have had? to have the ground covered this freezing weather, is desirable.

There is a grass, or rather a substitute, which was sown opposite to Stuarts house at River farm, called chicorium or chicory, which from Mr. Whiting's dislike to it, was neglected. If any of it remains, I desire you will save all the seed you can from it the coming season. There is, or was some of it also in the little garden by the Salt house. I have lately had a character of it from some English Gardeners who are well acquainted with it, which has convinced me that to cut and feed it green,

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in the manner of Lucern or clover, that it is a valuable thing for soiling either horses or cattle, especially the former.

At the proper Season, let all the cross ditches on which the partition fences in the Mill Swamp are, be set with willow, for the purpose of supplying the places of the present rail fences. Yellow willow I would prefer, but any kind will do, even that wch. grows in the swamps. And I shall rely upon you for keeping all these hedges, in their infant state, clean. It is necessary to do this, and ought to be as much the duty of the Overseer at whatever farm they are planted, to attend to it, as to their Corn. To procure the seeds of plants and cuttings for these purposes, have cost me a good deal of labour, and indeed no small sum of money; but it has been my misfortune, hitherto, to derive little or no advantage from it; owing to the intolerable neglect of giving no attention to either after putting them into the ground; by wch. they get choked, and strangled by the Weeds; and consequently all the labor and expence which had been previously incurred is lost; and what is of infinite more importance, and for which there is no remedy, the delay in raising hedges is put of from year to year; my timber consuming in the meanwhile, until I shall have little left for the most necessary purposes. In nothing have I discovered half so much anxiety as to reclaim meadow lands, and to substitute live in place of dead fences; and yet in nothing under your predecessors, have I met with greater disappointment and vexation on my part, from the inattention given to these things, on theirs. Merely to comply with an order, seed has been put into the ground or cuttings set out, and there the matter has ended: but in future, when anything of this sort is done I hope you will make it (as I have mentioned before) as much the duty of the Overseer to attend to these as to his Corn field. I wish you well, and am etc.

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*To EDMUND PENDLETON

Philadelphia, January 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: From a long acquaintance with, and a sincere regard for you, I always feel pleasure in hearing from you, and of you, consequently, your letter of the 30th. ult was an acceptable annuity.

Notwithstanding you have passed your 73 year, whilst you enjoy tolerable health, and retain your faculties in the vigor they are, I wish as well on public, as on private account, that length of days may be added to those which you have already numbered. A month from this day, if I live to see the completion of it, will place me on the wrong (perhaps it would be better to say, on the advanced) side of my grand climacteric; and altho' I have no cause to complain of the want of health, I can religiously aver that no man was ever more tired of public life, or more devoutly wished for retirement, than I do.

I hope, and believe, that the spirit of anarchy in the western counties of this State (to quell which the force of the Union was called for) is *entirely* subdued; and altho' to effect it, the community has been saddled with a considerable expence, yet I trust no money could have been more advantageously expended; both as it respects the internal peace and welfare of *this* country, and the impression it will make on *others*. The spirit with which the Militia turned out, in support of the Constitution, and the laws of our country, at the sametime that it does them immortal honor, is the most conclusive refutation that could have been given to the assertions of Lord Sheffield,[85] and the prediction of others of his cast, that without the protection of G. Britain, we should be unable to govern ourselves; and

[85] John Baker Holroyd, Earl of Sheffield. He had published shortly after the treaty of peace, in 1783, his *Observations on the Commerce of the American States.*

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would soon be involved in anarchy and confusion. They will see that republicanism is not the phantom of a deluded imagination: on the contrary, that under no form of government, will laws be better supported, liberty and property better secured, or happiness be more effectually dispensed to mankind.

The successes of our Army to the westward has, already, been productive of good consequences. They have dispelled a cloud which lowered very heavily in the northern hemisphere (the six nations); and tho' we have received no direct advices from General Wayne since November, there is reason to believe that the Indians with whom we are, or were, at war in that quarter, together with their abetters, begin to see things in a different point of view; but what effect these favorable changes may have on the Southern Indians, it is not easy, at this moment, to decide.

I accord fully in my opinion with you, that the plan of annual presents in an abstract view, unaccompanied with other measures, is not the best mode of treating ignorant Savages, from whose hostile conduct we experience much distress; but it is not to be overlooked, that they, in turn, are not without serious causes of complaint, from the encroachments which are made on their lands by our people; who are not to be restrained by any law now in being, or likely to be enacted. They, poor wretches, have no Press thro' which their grievances are related; and it is well known, that when one side only of a Story is heard, and often repeated, the human mind becomes impressed with it, insensibly. The annual presents however, which you allude to, are not given so much with a view to purchase peace, as by way of retribution for injuries, not otherwise to be redressed. These people are very much

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irritated by the continual pressure of land speculators and settlers on one hand; and by the impositions of unauthorised, and unprincipled traders (who rob them in a manner of their hunting) on the other. Nothing but the strong arm of the Union, or in other words, energetic laws, can correct these abuses; but here! jealousies, and prejudices (from which I apprehend more fatal consequences to this government than from any other source) aided by local situations, and perhaps by interested considerations, always oppose themselves to efficient measures.

My communications to Congress at the last and present Session, have proceeded upon similar ideas with those expressed in your letter, namely, to make *fair* treaties with the Savage tribes, (by this I mean, that they shall *perfectly* understand every article and clause of them, from correct and repeated interpretations); that these treaties shall be held sacred, and the infractors on either side punished exemplarily; and to furnish them plentifully with goods under wholesome regulations, without aiming at higher prices than is adequate to cover the cost, and charges. If measures like these were adopted, we might hope to live in peace and amity with these borderers; but not whilst our citizens, in violation of law and justice, are guilty of the offences I have mentioned, and are carrying on unauthorised expeditions against them; and when, for the most attrocious murders, even of those of whom we have the least cause of complaint, a Jury on the frontiers, can hardly be got to listen to a charge, much less to convict a culprit.

The madness of the European powers, and the calamitous situation into which all of them are thrown by the present ruinous war, ought to be a serious warning to us, to avoid a similar catastrophe, as long as we can with honor and justice to our national character. What will be the result of Mr. Jay's

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mission, is more than I am able, at this moment, to disclose. Charged as he has been with *all* matters in dispute between the two countries (not, as has been insinuated in some of the Gazettes, *merely* to that of spoliation) it may easily be conceived that there would be a large field of discussion; but upon what principle (except that of piracy) to account for the conduct of the Bermudian privateers, at this stage of the negotiation, is beyond my comprehension on any fair ground of conjecture; as it *must* swell the bill. With very great esteem and regard I am &c. [MS. H. S.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 25, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Since my last of this day week, I have received your letters of the 11th. and 18th. instt., with the weekly reports, and an acct. of sundry payments and the rects. therefor. The latter (that is the vouchers) I did not wish to have had sent, it would have been time enough to exhibit these when I come home and settled the accts. regularly. All I wanted for the present, or rather for the past year, was a genl. Acct. of *all* the monies you had received and paid from the time of your taking charge of the business, up to the close of the year 1794. comprehending there in the Overseers Wages, and whatever belonged properly to that year, that I might have a view of the receipts and expenditures thereof, that I might see how I was going on.

In looking over your acct. currt., and comparing it with the Millers receipt I find an error of £9. 4. 6 to your disadvantage, that is, you have charged me with £22. 18. 0 cash paid him, whereas by his receipt, it appears that he had got from you £32. 2. 6 cash, and acknowledges to have received the first named sum in other articles.

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I am sorry to find that flour has fallen so considerably before the little I made was ready for market, and was disposed of; but as there is no reason that I can perceive for this great fall (knowing, that the Wheat crop last year was extremely short, in all the States of the Union which raise this grain for exportation) I have no doubt of the price being up again (possibly not so high) before the warm weather when it must be sold at any rate for fear of its spoiling.

How does, or did whilst the ground was uncovered, your early Wheat look? I was unlucky in my growth of it last year. Doctr. Stuart had a *good* return for what he sowed; and Colo. Ball a very great one. I wish there might not have been some imposition on me, the year before last in the seed; of this I entertained some suspicion when you informed me last harvest that it appeared to be very little forwarder in ripening than the common wheat. Does, or did your crops of Wheat continue to look well before the Snow fell, and your grass lots and meadows also?

How does the treading floor in the new barn at Dogue run answer? Having tried it now in both Wheat and Oats, you must be enabled to decide, whether it is a more expeditious mode than to tread on the ground, or not. That it is more clean and safe; if the lower door is always kept locked (wch. it ought to be except when the fan is at work) can admit of no doubt.

I approve of your idea of putting the little old field at the ferry into Corn, and laying it down with Wheat and clover. From the length of time it has lain out, it ought to produce well. If there is any part to clear, do not deprive it of all the wood, either leave single trees or clumps; indeed I would, without always giving particular directions, have this attended to as a *general* rule. It is always in one's power to cut a tree down, but time only can place them where one would have them, after the grd. is stripped of them.

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The Gardener may go on with his nursery, and be told that he shall be allowed the fifth of what are sold, or raised.

Altho' Bishop should never have wanted victuals or cloaths whilst he lived, yet his death cannot be cause of regret, even to his daughter; to whom, from the imbecility of age, if not when he died, he soon must have become very troublesome to her, and a burthen to all around him.

I never saw Donaldson's son, but from what you have said respecting him, I am very willing to allow him his victuals and course cloathing: but ascertain the quantum, and sort of both, in writing, to prevent mistakes and grumbling hereafter. I am always ready, and willing, to fulfil every engagement I enter into; and hating disputes, I wish always that contracts may be *clearly* understood; for this reason also, it is necessary he should know that the boy must work duly, and truly. And whilst I am on this subject, I would repeat my expectation that he will take pains to teach those who work with him (especially Isaac and the boy Jem) in the principles of the several kinds of work they are employed in; particular Carts, Wheels, Plows, Harrows, Wheel barrows, and such kinds of impliments as are used about a farm, or dwelling house. I would also have him cautioned against an error which I have felt no small inconvenience from; and that is, that rather than persevere in doing things right themselves, and being at the trouble of making others do the like, they will fall into the slovenly mode of executing work which is practiced by those, among whom they are. I have experienced this not only from European tradesmen, but from farmers also, who have come from England, and from none in a greater degree, than from Mr. Whiting, and one Bloxham, who preceeded him; and who, tho' perfectly acquainted with every part of a farmers business; and peculiarly so (the latter I mean) in the management and use of Oxen for the Cart or

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plow, double or single, with yokes or with harness; yet, finding it a little troublesome to instruct the Negros, and to compel them to the practice of *his* modes, he slided into theirs; and at length (which I adduce as a proof) instead of using proper flails for threshing the grain, I have found my people at this work with hoop poles, and other things similar thereto.

I am glad to find you are engaged in so useful, and desirable a work as that of filling up gullies in the fields that are coming into cultivation. Nothing can be more benificial on the farms than this; but where they are deep, use old trees, stumps, stones, broken rails, and such things for the bottom; otherwise the quantity of litter and leaves which wd. be required, would be immense. I served No 5. at Union farm in this manner, where a gully was, almost across the whole field, in which a horse might have been hid; and where, at this day, I believe there is scarcely any trace of it.

I think it not unlikely that French's Will is in Maryland: when he was guilty of these tricks formerly (before I had him) his walks, and harbouring place was, as I have been informed, somewhere within the circle of Broad Creek, Bladensburgh and upper Marlborough: the precise spot I do not know, nor is it worth while (except for the sake of example, nor for that, if it stops with him) to be at *much* trouble, or at *any* expence over a trifle, to hunt him up.

Let the Gardener know that I will endeavor to procure the Seeds he has wrote for, but tell him at the sametime that he must endeavor to save seeds for himself: Besides the high prices of Seeds in the Shops in this City, he knows from the experience of those I have heretofore sent him from hence, that they are not to be relied on. Get from him all the Seed of the St foin which he saved last year, and plant it to the best advantage you can the ensuing spring, for the purpose of raising seed.

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I am extremely anxious to raise all the seed I can from this plant: It must not be planted where hares can get to it; they are so fond of it as not to let it rise to seed.

With the Trees which were sent by Mr. Lear last spring, or from hence (I am not sure which) was sent you furze seed, as also Cale, or Cole seed: Let these also be made the most of, as well as the other grass seeds which were saved from the plants in the Vineyard, and from those in the little garden by the Salt house &ca. The books you have will tell when to sow. Fifty or Sixty bushels of Oats, indeed less, will be more than enough to save for my horses, the first trip I shall make to Mount Vernon, after the rising of Congress; and by the time the second trip is made, the new crop will be harvested, or on the point of it; yet, to make the matter sure (as the second trip will consume two or three hundd. bushels, in all probability) put by 100 bushels for my use; after which sell all you can spare, reserving enough of the *best* for seed and for such other uses as you know they will be wanted for. I do not know what ground except No. 7 at Dogue run you mean to sow with Oats next spring; but have no doubt you will take care to put in enough.

This induces me to ask, whether, as the ferry people will have the field at Mansion house to tend in Corn, as well as No 1 at home, it would not be well to put the little old field at that farm, if it could be fenced, and *well* prepared in *time,* into Oats and clover this Spring, as to let it go into Corn; and then into Wheat and clover in the fall? The Oats would answer for the horses as well as the Corn, whilst the clover would be sooner fit for use. But in this do as you like best.

If Mr. L: Washington is indebted for fish the charge, I presume, is on the fish acct. and where that is I know not at present. I wish you well, etc.

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P. S. What things were sent to Mount Vernon when the Mare and Colt which Austin rode was carried there? And among them was there a bundle for Mrs. Ehler?

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, January 28, 1795.

Gentlemen: A plan for the establishment of an University in the federal City, has frequently been the subject of conversation; but in what manner it is proposed to commence this important institution; on how extensive a scale, the means by which it is to be effected; how it is to be supported; or what progress is made in it; are matters altogether unknown to me.

It has always been a source of serious reflection and sincere regret with me, that the youth of the United States should be sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education. Altho' there are doubtless many under these circumstances who escape the danger of contracting principles, unfriendly to republican government; yet we ought to deprecate the hazard attending ardent and susceptible minds, from being too strongly, and too early prepossessed in favor of other political systems, before they are capable of appreciating their own.

For this reason, I have greatly wished to see a plan adopted by which the arts, Sciences and Belles lettres, could be taught in their *fullest* extent; thereby embracing *all* the advantages of European tuition with the means of acquiring the liberal knowledge which is necessary to qualify our citizens for the exigencies of public, as well as private life; and (which with me, is a consideration of great magnitude) by assembling the youth from the different parts of this rising republic, contributing

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from their intercourse, and interchange of information, to the removal of prejudices which might perhaps, sometimes arise, from local circumstances.

The federal City, from its centrality, and the advantages which, in other respects it must have over any other place in the U: States, ought to be preferred, as a proper site for such a University. And if a plan can be adopted upon a scale as *extensive* as I have described; and the execution of it shall commence under favorable auspices, in a reasonable time, with a fair prospect of success; I will grant, in perpetuity, fifty shares in the navigation of Potomac River towards the endowment of it.

What annuity will arise from these fifty shares, when the navigation is in full operation, can, at this time, be only conjectured; and those who are acquainted with the nature of it, can form as good a judgment as myself.

As the design of this University has assumed no form with which I am acquainted; and as I am equally ignorant who the persons are that have taken, or are disposed to take, the maturation of the plan upon themselves, I have been at a loss to whom I should make this communication of my intentions. If the Commrs. of the federal city have any particular agency in bringing the matter forward, then the information I now give to them, is in its proper course, If, on the other hand, they have no more to do in it than others, who may be desirous of seeing so important a measure carried into effect, they will be so good as to excuse my using them as the medium for disclosing these intentions; for as much, as it appears necessary, that the funds for the establishment and support of the Institution, should be known to the promoters of it; and because I saw no mode more eligable of making known mine. For these

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reasons I give you the trouble of this Address, and the assurance of being Gentlemen, &c.[86]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, February 1, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I write to you this week, more for the sake of letting you know that your letter of the 25th. ulto. with the reports, came safe, than because I have anything to communicate that is in any degree material.

I have no doubt of Ceder making a good hedge, but I have very great ones of your getting them to live, when transplanted; and if they should not, your labour as well as the plants will be lost.[87]

There are various opinions as to the proper season for removing these trees: some say spring; some say autumn; and others insist upon it that mid summer is the proper season. I never succeeded even tolerably, until I removed them in deep frosts;

[86] The draft is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On January 30 Washington, in answer to Hamilton's note of that day, wrote: "The eventual power which you applied for is herewith sent. Let the day of your resignation be made perfectly convenient to yourself. There is no necessity that your successor should be named on Monday next." This note is entered in the "Letter Book." Hamilton had written that he would be obliged to hold back his resignation as Secretary of the Treasury until Monday, in order to sign some papers then in course of preparation. "But it will reach the President in time to admit of a nomination on *that day* of a successor, if the President thinks fit." Hamiltons letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On this same day (January 30) the power which the Secretary of the Treasury had applied for was sent him. The power mentioned is dated January 30 and is also entered in the "Letter Book." It reads: "Presuming the legality of the propositions contained in your Letters of the 24. and 25. Instant, I consent that you give an eventual instruction to our Minister at the Hague to postpone the instalment of a Million of Florins, to become due on the first of June next on account of the Dutch Debt; and I also consent, that you cause to be allowed for charges upon the last Loan of 3,000,000 of florins obtained at Amsterdam, four and an half per Cent."

[87] At this point the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon,* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), has the following: "Were not Cedar berries sown in the Vineyard last year? and whether did they come up or not?"

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with a block of frozen earth hard bound, by the frost, to their roots. In this manner few or none will be lost; but in all probability the winter is too far spent for the adoption of this mode of transplanting them. My opinion is, that *any* trees or shrubs that will bear to stand close together without injuring each other, will do for partition fences against horses, cattle, and even sheep; but that nothing short of a close rail fence, or stone wall, is secure against hogs. This, among other reasons has made me anxious to try (as an experiment at least) to raise these animals in Sties from pigs.[88]

It is happy for old Betty, and her children and friends, that she is taken of[f] the stage; her life must have been miserable to herself, and troublesome to all those around her. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Sunday, February 1, 1795.

Dear Sir: I received the enclosed letter with the document therein, last night.

For reasons which will appear obvious, I make you acquainted with the contents of them, being Yours[89]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, February 2, 1795.

Dear Sir: After so long an experience of your public services, I am naturally led, at this moment of your departure from office, which it has always been my wish to prevent, to review

[88] At this point Conway's printed text has: "It has succeeded well where tried."

[89] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. On the address sheet Hamilton has indorsed: "This covered a letter from Mr. Coxe of the 31 of January 1795 contains a charge against Mr. Woolcott for my having committed to him and he having exercised the duties of Secy of the Treasury in my absence on the western expedition A H"

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them. In every relation, which you have borne to me, I have found that my confidence in your talents, exertions and integrity, has been well placed. I the more freely render this testimony of my approbation, because I speak from opportunities of information wch. cannot deceive me, and which furnish satisfactory proof of your title to public regard.

My most earnest wishes for your happiness will attend you in your retirement, and you may assure yourself of the sincere esteem, regard and friendship of, dear Sir, your affectionate, &c.[90]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 4, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before Congress for their consideration, a Letter from the Secretary of State[91] upon the subject of a Loan, which is extremely interesting and urgent.[92]

[90] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Hamilton's reply (in the *Washington Papers* under date of February 3) says, in part: "As often as I may recall the vexations I have endured, your approbation will be a great and precious consolation. It was not without a struggle, that I yielded to the very urgent motives, which impelled me to relinquish a station, in which I could hope to be in any degree instrumental in promoting the success of an administration under your direction . . . I entreat you to be persuaded (not the less for my having been sparing in professions) that I shall never cease to render a just tribute to those eminent and excellent qualities which have been already productive of so many blessings to your country; that you will always have my fervent wishes for your public and personal felicity, and that it will be my pride to cultivate a continuance of that esteem regard and friendship, of which you do me the honor to assure me."

On February 2 Washington nominated Oliver Wolcott, jr., as Secretary of the Treasury. The Senate confirmed the nomination February 3.

[91] Randolph's letter of February 4, also recorded in the "Letter Book," states that the Secretary of the Treasury reports from an extract of a letter from our Commissioners at Amsterdam, conveys "the painful intelligence, that reliance cannot be had on the success of the measures heretofore taken for procuring the Loan there. Altho' all the necessary powers and instructions have been given for carrying into execution the principal object of that law [Act of March 20, 1794, authorizing a loan of one million dollars] I am apprehensive that the business will be stagnated unless the most prompt expedients should be adopted. Congress are the sole authority, which can remove the difficulties, and I therefore take the liberty of suggesting the propriety of laying the matter before them."

[92] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, February 8, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter with its enclosures, came to my hands as usual, by the Mail of yesterday.

The general accounts, as I mentioned in a late letter, may remain for settlement, until my arrival at Mount Vernon, and up to the close of the last year.

I do not, among the things sent to Mount Vernon by Mrs. Styles (as in the possession of Austin) see any shirts mentioned. Was it an omission, or were there none sent? Some of the articles, I presume, belonged to himself, and were designed for his wife, which she may still have if they are known.

I had doubts myself, whether the little old field at the ferry could be got in good order, *in time,* for Oats and clover, when I suggested the idea to you; I consent very readily therefore to your tending it in Corn, and laying it down in Wheat and clover; what quantity is there of it, that is how many acres will there be cultivated in the piece; and if there is the least reason to apprehend that the field by the white gates will be wanted for pasture, or cannot be *well* cultivated, I as readily give this over also, for you will recollect that my constant admonishment has been never to undertake more than you can (in the common course of weather, and other circumstances) accomplish *well.* I agree likewise to the arrangement which you propose with respect to the fields No. 1, 3, and 6 at Muddy hole; and desire that you would, at all times, suggest any plans which you think may be advantageous; always keeping in mind, that *immediate* profit is not so much an object with me as the restoration of worn out and gullied fields; bringing them in condition to bear grass; reclaiming and laying swamps to meadow;

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making live fences (especially where hogs are not suffered to run); and ornamenting the grounds about the Mansion house.

The old clover lot at that place it is my wish should be planted this year with Potatoes; and the poor parts thereof, as far as your means will extend, to be well manured.

You should take care to advertise, in time, the horse and Jacks for covering, the ensuing season. Let them stand at the same rates they did last year. If they were lower I might get more Mares to them, without adding much to the profit; especially as my pastures would be injured (that is to say eaten barer) thereby.

I am sorry to hear that your Wht. fields have been so thinly covered with Snow, during the late frosts and wet weather. If this should continue to be the case, it is much to be feared that the remainder of this month, and the succeeding one, will prove very injurious.

Herewith are the garden seeds which Ehler wrote for: but tell him that such seeds as he *can* save, he ought to save. It is shameful for Gardeners and farmers to be buying seeds that their own soil and climate will produce after being once furnished. I remain Your friend.

*To JOHN JAMESON

Philadelphia, February 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 30th. Ulto. has been received, as has been a letter from a Gentleman, who I presume is your brother; the receipt of which, owing to one cause and another, has never yet been acknowledged.

The reason why I delayed to comply with the call upon me for eighty dollars, will be explained by the copy of a letter, enclosed, which I received from your deceased uncle Mr. Jameson of York, agreeably to its date.

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By this it will appear that the company had money in his hands; besides the profits which might be expected to arise from the labor of the slaves which appeared then to be in existence. Having never received an iota from the company for more than twenty years nor never having heard of any appropriation of the sum acknowledged to be in hand, I was in hopes of receiving, instead of being called upon to advance. I wished therefore to see some statement of this matter, and intended to have requested the favor of your brother to give it to me; but occurrences of a public nature, and the pressure of business in which I was continually involved occasioned the postponement of it from time to time until I had forgot the matter altogether and it would have remained in that State had not your letter recalled it to my recollection.

I have no doubt but that the Treasurers books will fully, and satisfactorily account for the balance which is mentioned in his letter, and would thank you for causing it to be transmitted to me, that I may have some idea of the state of my interest in that concern. I do not mean however, by this, to withhold my quota of the subscription to the Canal company until it is received, if you, therefore, will be so good as to pay the eighty dollars which is the amount of it I will answer your draught at sight when presented in this City. And by the enclosed short missive I have authorized you to represent me;[93] and to guard my

[93] On February 16 Washington executed a power of attorney to Jameson, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*. It reads: "I do by these presents constitute and appoint John Jameson Esqr. of Culpeper County in Virginia to be my Attorney for the purpose of representing my interest in the Great dismal Swamp. And I do hereby authorise and empower the said John Jameson to vote in my behalf, on all questions which may come before the Dismal Swamp company (of which I am a member) at any of their meetings, and to act and do for me in all things concerning the same to the best of his judgement, as he would for himself, except to sell or mortgage the property. All wch. votes, acts and doings, legally performed shall be binding on me."

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interest in the Dismal Swamp Company in which I have an entire share.

Permit me, at the sametime, to request the favor of you to give me information who the *present* proprietors are, the shares, or parts of shares each hold, and what the reputed value of a share is, in a word what one could be bought for, or sold at; with any other details which your leizure, and intimate knowledge of the subject may enable you to afford me.

Unless a watchful eye is kept upon the timber, belonging to the Company in the Dismal Swamp, it will be swept away; and a valuable fund sunk thereby. I have no objection to an advance for the purpose of getting it ourselves, presuming the plan for the accomplishment of it will be properly digested and the execution placed under good management. With very great esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, February 15, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter, and the reports of the preceeding Week, came duly to hand.

It is my earnest wish to have my land on four mile run resurveyed, and the bounds thereof ascertained; that the pretence of not knowing the lines may, no longer, be an excuse for the trespasses which are committed thereon, to the great diminution of its value; the wood being the more important, as the land is of a mean quality. For the purpose of surveying, it was, that I left the papers with you; and more than once have called your attention to this business. It might be well to agree upon some day with Mr. Washington[94] and others, (amongst whom a Mr. Terret joins) that are knowing to the lines, and interested

[94] Lund Washington.

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in the business; that it may be effectually done if every thing is clear, and no difficulties shd. arise with respect to title, or bounds. If these, or either of them, should happen, enter into no agreement that will be obligatory on me. I attempted, as will appear by some notes amongst the papers I left with you, to Survey this land myself; but having no person with me who was acquainted with the lines, I was unable to find more than two or three of the Corners. A Moses Ball, if living, must have some knowledge of the lines: Mr. Terret also, but as he is interested in this business, and is accused of being a pretty considerable trespasser on the part which joins him, if would not be strange if corner and line trees both are cut down; nor *very* strange, if it has not happened from *entire* ignorance, if he should not endeavor to perplex, and mislead thereabouts. As the Survey is not in consequence of a law suit, and made by order of the Court, there is no necessity of employing the County Surveyor, unless he possesses more skill than any other who can readily be got; and will do it upon as moderate terms, as any other. Do not let my papers go out of your hands, or any copies be taken from them. The Surveyor, if he is a man of Science, will know what the variation of the compass is, and what allowance to make for it, if any difficulty should arise from the want of the Corner, and line trees.

I am sorry to hear that it is not likely I shall have more than a 1000 bushels of Oats to spare. The crop must have fallen far short of my calculation, or the quantity consumed much greater than I had conceived, to reduce the stock on hand, so low. From the appearance of them growing, I had hopes that nearer four than three thousand bushels would have been produced by the several fields and lots, which were in this article, last year. I am not disposed to take half a crown (that is 2/6) for them, yet;

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they certainly must be higher before the Month of April passes off, or they will bear no proportion in price to other grain.

I have no objection to your transplanting the young cedars which grow in the nursery; but not knowing the number there may be of them, I am at a loss to what fence they should be removed. If there was a sufficiency of them, to plant them thick enough for a hedge, from the gate which leads into No. 1 at Union farm to the Barn (along the ditch) and from thence onwards as far as that ditch runs I should prefer this as a hedge of them, to any other; next to this, I should prefer an avenue of them from the Mill road up to Union Barn (along the fence on each side). If they are incompetent to this purpose also, perhaps it would be best to make good the hedge, with them, at River farm; which is of Cedar from the river up to the Woods. If they are insufficient for either of these purposes, plant them wherever you think they will answer best. You say that the seed which was sown last year did not come up. In what manner it was prepared and sown I know not; but if they are not soaked in water (warmed I suppose would be best) and all the gum, or coat that is around them rubbed off, quite to the naked seed, it will be to no purpose to sow them, for without this is done, or they pass through the body of some animal, the gathering of the seed, preparing the ground, and sowing them, will be entire lost labor.

If the lot between the Stable and the spring is not *well,* and thickly taken with Lucern, and entirely free from grass, I wish you would put a heavy harrow with sharp teeth thereon, and tare the ground in a manner to pieces, without regarding how much the lucern plants are torn and maimed. In a word, make the top of the ground fine, and perfectly free from grass and weeds; and then sow it at the rate of 5 lbs of Lucern, and the

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same quantity of red clover, to the Acre. If none of the former has been saved from that which you grew in the Vineyard, let me know your want, and it shall be sent from hence. If the Lucern, in the lot I have been speaking off is too thin, or overdone with grass or weeds, I would prefer plowing it up first, and then harrowing it until it is in the most *perfect* order imaginable, before it is sown in the manner before mentioned.

If you depend upon me for Linnen to cloath my Negros, let me know without delay the quantity necessary that it may be sent in time. And let me entreat that proper care and attention may be given to the Bacon, to prevent spoiling; and that we may find it good when we come home.

Enclosed you will find two letters, one from Smith, respecting the fishery at Union farm, and the other from old Butler. My answer to the first, left open for your perusal before it be sent to him, will be a sufficient indication of what will be best for you to say to him on the subject of his application. To the other I have given no answer; but would have you enquire from time to time into his *real* situation, and afford him such relief as his necessities shall appear to require.

The tedious manner in which my carpenters seem to execute every thing they take in hand, is extremely to be regretted. They seem, from the reports, to have been weeks getting scantling for the Sheds at D: Run; when, from the idea I had of this work, I presumed a few days would have sufficed. I beg therefore that you will make them report how much hewing, and how much sawing they perform in the Week. One may know then what it is they have *really* done; and can judge, by what is known to be the performance of others, at this season in similar timber, and of similar work. I require no more of them than others do; but this I must have by fair means, or by coercion; the first would be vastly more agreeable to me.

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By the Reports I perceive also, that for every day Betty Davis works she is laid up two. If she is indulged in this idleness she will grow worse and worse, for she has a disposition to be one of the most idle creatures upon earth; and is, besides, one of the most deceitful. I remain etc.

To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, February 16, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your favor of the 4th. Instant, accompanying the transactions of the Society for promoting Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures; and am very much obliged by your goodness in sending them to me.

Works of this sort are of the most interesting importance to every country; and it is much to be regretted that similar societies, are not more general in our own, or not more attended to in those States where they are established.

I shall, the moment I have a little more leisure than the winding up of the present Session of Congress will afford me, read your experiments on lucern with attention, and I am persuaded I shall do it also with pleasure and edification, as I have long been favorably impressed with the value of that grass; especially if it can be in this country (as in some others) cultivated in broadcast to advantage, thereby saving the expense of labour when it is raised in drills.

I take the liberty of sending for your perusal, a pamphlet on the cultivation of Potatoes from the shoots. It was sent to me by the author, and must speak for itself, as I have had no experience myself of the mode there recommended. I mean however to make trial of it the ensuing season, for which reason, after you have read the work, I pray you to return it to me; unless you, or the Society in which you preside, shall think it

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worthy of republication, in which case it may be retained for that purpose. With great esteem etc.[95]

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, February 18, 1795.

My dear Sir: I am sorry to find by your letter of the 29th. Ult wch. I recd. yesterday by Mr. Turberville[96] that my letter of Novr. last had but just got to hand. Had it been received by you in due season, I might have obtained the carpenter I was enquiring after; and could have given you earlier information of the result of my enquiries respecting the schools to the Northward. Not doing it, I concluded you had changed your mind with respect to your Sons; or, that letters directed to you by Post was too uncertain to be depended upon.

There are too private Academies in the state of Massachusetts which are highly spoken of; One at Andover, and the other at Hingham; about 20 miles each from Boston; but in different directions. That at Andover I have been at myself; it is in a high, dry and pleasant Country; and in more of a township than a town. Inhabited by respectable and well disposed people. Schooling, board, washing and lodging will not much, if any, I am told, exceed two dollars a week for each boy. By the Constitution of the Academy, not more than 60 or 65 scholars (I am not sure which) can be there at a time. What the number at this moment is, I have not been able to learn; but one of the Senators from that State (living not far from it) has promised to write, for immediate information; and to know if boarding can be obtained in a good family. The result of which you shall know, if a conveyance by the Post (and I know of no other) will convey it to you.

[95] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[96] John(?) Turberville.

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I have not been able to obtain quite so accurate information of things at the other Academy, at Hingham; but understand, generally, that they are placed on nearly the same ground as at Andover. At the former, the precident,[97] or principal Director of the School, takes in boarders himself; but whether he is full, or not, I have not been able to learn; the latter, seems to have the preference as a school; and may be on a par, in the article of board, for ought I know to the contrary; but I shall be able to inform you more fully after the enquiry, which I have mentioned, has been made.

There is a College at Carlisle, in this State, of which much is said; but it is in much such a town as Fredericksburgh; and liable, I presume, to the objection you have made to the Academies in Virginia; that objection does not apply to the Northern Schools; order, regularity and a proper regard to morals, in, and out of school is, there, very much attended to: and besides, Harvard College near Boston, is at hand for the completion of education, if you should prefer it, and is, I am told, in high repute.

If, whilst I remain in my *present* situation, you should want to make regular remittances to that quarter, there would be no difficulty in doing it, if you furnish me with the means. With affecte. regard I am etc.[98]

*To JOHN GREENWOOD

Philadelphia, February 20, 1795.

Sir: Your last letter, with its accompaniment, came safe to my hands on tuesday last.

[97] Washington has corrected this word by an erasure and, apparently, changed it without again reading the context.

[98] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

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Enclosed you will receive Sixty dollars in Bank notes of the United States. In addition to which, I pray you to accept my thanks for the ready attention which you have at all times, paid to my requests; and that you will believe me to be, with esteem etc.[99]

*To REVEREND WILLIAM MAUNSELL [1]

Philadelphia, February 20, 1795.

Sir: At the moment I acknowledge the receipt of your obliging favor of the 19th. of last March, I find is incumbent on me, to apologize for delaying so long to offer you my thanks for the interesting pamphlet you had the goodness to send me, on the cultivation of Potatoes, from the shoots.

Your discovery of this mode is novel; and it must be of great utility if it can be carried into extensive practice. I shall make trial of it myself the ensuing season, and will recommend it to others to do the same, by laying your experiments before them.

It is to be regretted, that we have not, more agricultural Societies established in this country; and it is to be lamented that those wch. are formed, are not sufficiently attended to; but in this, as in other things we must have a beginning.

I pray you to accept my particular thanks for your kind wishes for me, and to accept mine in return. I am etc.

*To ISRAEL SHREVE

Philadelphia, February 21, 1795.

Sir: Your favor of the 7th. instt. came to my hands yesterday. And this letter will inform you that, as you have acceded to the

[99] From a photograph of the original in Medical College of the University of London, kindly furnished by Dr. L. Parmly Brown, of Peekskill, N. Y.

[1] Of Limerick, Ireland.

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terms on which I offered you my lands in Fayette County (by letter dated the 14th. of Jany.) I now consider the bargain as concluded, between us; but there can be no transfer on your part to any other, untill you are possessed of the legal title, and the first payment is made; But this need not restrain you from making conditional arrangements on this head, or with the tenants.

I will place all the Patents, and Surveys which relate to these lands, into the hands of Mr. Ross, before he leaves the City, which (if not detained by unforeseen events) will be early in next month for the purpose of legalizing the bargain, which, hence forward, as I have already declared, I shall consider as binding on us both; and have no doubt of its proving advantageous on your part as lands are rising in price. with esteem etc.

[H. L.]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, February 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. Ult came duly to hand; but the pressure of business in which I am always involved whilst Congress are in Session, has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of it at an earlier date. and now; I may not be so full as you might wish; but shall touch upon the several points of your letter, and in the order they stand there.

If the tenants are not punctual in the discharge of their Rents, when they become due, destrain for them without delay, or hesitation; unless their disability to pay, proceeds from some providential interposition, or from some other obvious cause which entitles them to indulgence; for it may be depended upon, if the failure proceeds from idleness, the man who is unable to pay one rent, will never pay two, willingly; and generally, when it goes beyond that, the score is wiped out.

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With respect to the Sheriffs, shew them no indulgence; of all descriptions of men in this Country, I think them (tho' there may, and undoubtedly there are many exceptions) the least entitled to favor; I mean to be understood, as speaking of under sheriffs, and those who farm the office, merely to grind the people and get money into their hands, for speculative and other purposes of their own, instead of rendering it where due.

I shall expect the accts. of all the monies collected, and of the arrearages, as soon as you can make it out, that I may know precisely how the matter stands on this and on the replevy bonds.

Mrs. Haney[2] should endeavor to do what she can for herself, this is a duty incumbent on every one; but you must not let her suffer, as she has thrown herself upon me; your advances on this account will be allowed always, at settlement; and I agree readily to furnish her with provisions: and for the good character you give of her daughter make the latter a present, in my name, of a handsome, but not costly gown, and other things which she may stand mostly in need of. You may charge me also with the worth of your tenement on which she is placed, and where perhaps it is better she should be, than at a great distance from your attentions to her.

I have already given you my ideas with respect to the purchasing of leases; but to these I will add, that if you can make *advantageous* bargains, conclude them; as far as you have means in your *own* hands to carry them into effect. Beyond this, make them conditionally *only,* leaving the ratification to me; that I may decide from the prospect I have of commanding money; whether to carry them into execution, or not. In conducting this business, there are *two* things which you should

[2]Elizabeth Haynie. She was a relative and pensioner of Washington's mother, and died in April, 1796. Her daughter, Sally Ball Haynie, was helped by Washington.

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never loose sight of. The first is, that the sum given to purchase *in* the lease, is fixed and *certain;* and the rent which can be had for the tenement [blurred in the press-copy] is *uncertain.* To go upon the supposition, therefore, that it will rent for this or that sum, is fallacious ground, unless there is unequivocal evidence on which to form an opinion. The second thing is, that the rent, whatever it may be, must be *more* than will afford 6 pr Ct. interest for the sum advanced for the purchase, in addition to the rent. first, because 6 pr Ct. is the *legal* interest of the U. States. secondly because any person who has money to lend, and will adopt the *usual* modes, may obtain much more; and thirdly because the rent which is received, and which I am entitled to without *any* advance, is equivalent to a certain principal; for instance, if I was to give an hundred pounds for a lease, the rent of which was £6, if I did not receive £12 rent, the deficiency would be lost, upon *legal* ground; because the land is equal to £6, and the £100 pd. by way of purchase, is equal to £100 more. But those who possess money, can turn it (where they are disposed to do it) to more profit than lending it at £6 pr. Cent. I have no inclination however to fall into those practices. therefore, after this explanation of my ideas, go on and purchase as far as you have means, absolutely; and conditionally, afterwards, for the reasons given.

I had no conception that at *this day* my leases were so full of lives as would appear from your acct. of them. I wish my confidence in placing blank Leases *signed* into the hands of Mr. Muse may not have been abused. I have not, to the best of my recollectn., sanctioned more than the rental for lives of two leases, one to Mr. Aires[3]; and another to a person who was

[3] Ariss(?).

On February 24 Dandridge wrote to Tench Francis, by direction of the President, offering him the position of "Purveyor of Public Supplies," which office had been established by Congress, Feb. 23, 1795. Francis's name was submitted to the Senate, February 24, and he was confirmed February 25.

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formerly an overseer to my brother John; the rest were formed for a term of years wch. must have expired. I am, &c.

*To THOMAS PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, February 25, 1795.

Dear Sir: The Gentleman who will have the honor of delivering this letter to you; is Doctr. Tate, who is possessed of the valuable secret of curing Cancerous complaints.

A call to England for some purpose of that sort, or with a view to derive benefit from his discovery, affords me an occasion to inform you (at his request) that I have, myself, experienced the fruits of his skill, in this art; being cured by him of an irritable spot on my right cheek which had for years been encreasing in pricking and disagreeable sensations; and in June last assumed the decided character of a Cancer; of which I was perfectly relieved by Doctr. Tate in about two months by an easy course, under the operation of which I felt no confinement, or other inconvenience at the time, nor any injury to my constitution since.

As he is going to a foreign country, and I am enabled from my own experience to bear testimony of his skill, in this particular, justice required I should do so; and it is with pleasure also that I embrace the opportunity of assuring you of the esteem and regard with which I am etc.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 1, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have to acknowledge the rect. of your letter of the 22d. ulto, and shall give you my sentiments upon the several matters required.

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With respect to the fishery, I am of opinion that, selling them *all* to one man, is best: and that if Mr. Smith will give five shillings pr. thousand for herrings, and twelve shillgs. a hundred for the shad, and will oblige himself to take all you have to spare, that you had better strike, and enter into a written agreement with him. By which agreement he must be ***bound*** to receive or pay for, *all* you do not want for my own use, and to fill the 100 barls you are getting; for you will recollect, that both these species of fish run in what are called gluts; at which time if he is not prepared for their reception, and *compelled* to take them, I shall loose the market; and fishing thereby will become rather a loss than benefit; as, without this, he being the *only* purchaser, you would only draw the Sein as he could (conveniently) cure the fish by wch. means, when the fish are moving up in a body and when ten for one, at another time, might be caught, he might not receive them; and, of course, your harvest would be lost. Having an hundred barrels of your own will, in some measure secure you against the extent of this evil; but it ought, nevertheless, to be guarded against. Another thing is to be understood between you, and that is, that he is not to interfere with the house where your fish and Salt will be. I never chose to sell to Waggoners; there horses have always been found troublesome, and themselves indeed not less so, being much addicted to the pulling down and burning the fences. If you do not sell to Smith, the next best thing is to sell to the Watermen.

I do not know for what purpose an order of Court is to be obtained (by Mr. Washington[4]) for the purpose of Surveying the land which he, for himself, or others, hold on four mile run. If all the parties concerned agree to Survey, and mark their boundaries, it may be done without the interference of the Court. If they do not (as there is no suit pending) I should not

[4] Lund Washington.

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like to have any line marked that is to establish my boundary without being present myself, to see that I had justice done me. As far as I am able, at the present moment, and under probable events, to form an opinion I expect to be at Mount Vernon about the 15th. or 20th. of April. If therefore the parties interested, will endeavor to accomodate matters to that time, I will endeavor to be present at the Survey of the Lands adjoining to mine. It is to be observed however, that public business will not put it so much in my power to accomodate myself to their convenience, as it may be in their power to yield to mine; which obliges me to speak more in general terms of being at Mount Vernon, than definitely.

I agree to your taking up the young Cedars along the Creek side, and transplanting them in the lane you propose; and am glad to find you have managed the Cedar berries in the manner you have mentioned; they certainly will make a good hedge, and are a tree of quick growth.

I agree also, and indeed strongly recommend, your breaking up the lucern lot by the Spring; and wish that it may be extremely well plowed, harrowed and prepared for lucern and clover seed mixed; the former of which (if any fresh and good can be had) I will send from hence.

Oznabrigs also shall be sent from hence: but do not let the work stop for want; for I do not suppose it is to be purchased upon much, if any better terms here, than in Alexandria: Do you not mean to spin, for linnen, the flax that has been raised on the Estate the two last years?

You may inform Mr. Bayley,[5] when occasion offers, that It is not certain *now,* that the same price for which I offered the small piece of land I hold on Difficult run, would tempt me to part with it; since I find by enquiry, that lands of worse

[5] Pearce Baylor (Bayley). He was the collector for Truro Parish.

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quality, and not more convenient to the federal City, on the Maryland side of the Potomack, are selling from twenty to 30 dollars pr. Acre without any extra: advantage to recommend them, whereas mine has a *good* Mill seat on the Main run of Difficult and, in my opinion, a still better one on what is called the Bridge branch thereof; and a considerable proportion of the tract capable of being converted into good meadow, it lies on the main road from Alexandria to Leesburgh, only 19 measured miles from the former and not more than three from the Great falls, or Matilda ville. As to renting it, it is hardly worth mentioning these terms; but as the question has been asked you, and as the lowest price I ever will take for the land is £1500 Virginia Cury. which I have been offered (differing only on the interest of the unpaid money) it will not be expected that I should hereafter sell which wd. bring me in less annual profit than that Sum would do at five pr Ct. annually.

I think Mr. Stuart[6] ought to be informed if ever Folwers Ben comes on the Farm you are to give him a good whipping, and forbid his ever returning. I am etc.

PS. You might make a transcript of the foregoing paragraph respecting my land on Difficult run; and with the plant, send it to him (as from yourself) as my answer; that is, you need not mention it was done by my direction.

*To JOHN LATHROP, JUNIOR[7]

Philadelphia, March 2, 1795.

Sir: Your favor of the 29th of January came duly to hand, and I pray you to accept my thanks for your politeness in sending

[6] William Stuart, overseer at River Farm.

On March 1 Dandridge wrote to the Secretary of War that the President thought General Wayne's letter of January 24 should be laid before Congress, or published in the gazettes. Wayne's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers;* but is printed in *American State Papers, Indian Affairs,* vol. 1. It announced the pleasing prospects of peace with the Indians northwest of the Ohio and recited the preliminary articles of a treaty with the Chippewas, Pottawatamies, Sacs, and Miamis.

[7] A lawyer of Boston, Mass.

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the intended Oration therewith inclosed; and for the favorable mention you have been pleased to make of Sir, Your etc.

*To BURGES BALL

Philadelphia, March 2, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 19th of Decr. and 9th. Ulto. came duly to hand in the usual course of the Posts.

I was not unmindful of the contents, altho' I did not acknowledge the receipt of them. Genl. Knox who was in office when the first came to hand, said (as well as I recollect) that nothing could be done in the matter without an act of the Legislature of Virginia, consenting to the purchase of the spot, designated for the erection of an arsenal agreeably to the law if that state should be thought of for one of them; but that he would write to you himself on this subject. Colo. Pickering who succeeded him, and to whom your other letter has been shewn, thinks the price asked for your land is very high, and the situation rather too low down. I have desired him however to write to you, and to put you on a certainty respecting your offer. This I presume he has done, or soon will do, or, will send a skilful man in whom *he* can confide, to reexamine the different sites on the river fit for the establishment of an arsenal.

After giving you this information, I am not inclined to say any thing more to the Secretary of War (in whose department the business lies) respecting the matter, lest it should be supposed I am influenced thereto by the connexion which is between us.

I have so little leisure while Congress are in Session, to give any attention to matters of private concern; and generally so much hurried towards the close of it, that I shall, at this time,

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only add my love to Mrs. Ball (in which Mrs. Washington unites) and that I am etc.

PS. No such act as is mentioned in your letter of the 19th. of December has ever been transmitted to me by the Executive of Virga; yet such an one may have passed.[8]

To JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Philadelphia, March 2, 1795.

Sir: The letter with which you favored me dated the 2d. Ulto., came duly to hand. I am at a loss for words to convey the sense I entertain of the favorable sentiments you have been pleased to express for me in that letter.

To the Great ruler of events, not to any exertions of mine, is to be ascribed the favorable termination of our late contest for liberty. I never considered the fortunate issue of any measure adopted by me in the progress of the Revolution in any other light than as the ordering of kind Providence; and if the partiality of my Countrymen do justice to my motives thro' that arduous struggle; and to those which have since occurred in the administration of the present Government, as, the result of the contest it is the only reward I ever sought, and the greatest that could be conferred on, sir, Your etc.[9]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 2, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: It appears from the information which I have lately

[8] From the original in the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.
[9] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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received, that it may be probably necessary, to the more successful conduct of our affairs on the coast of Barbay, that one Consul should reside in Morocco, another in Algiers, and a third in Tunis or Tripoli. As no appointment for these offices will be accepted, without some emoluments annexed; I submit to the consideration of Congress, whether it may not be adviseable to authorize a stipend to be allowed to two Consuls for that coast, in addition to the one already existing.[10]

To THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

United States, March 3, 1795.

Certain matters touching the public good, requiring that the Senate shall be convened on Monday the 8th. of June next; I have desired their attendance, as I do yours by these presents,[11] at the Senate Chamber in Philadelphia on that day, then and there to receive and deliberate on such communications as shall be made to you on my part.[10]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 4, 1795.

Sir: It is my desire that you would, with as little delay as can be avoided, examine all the acts of the last session of Congress; and report such parts as call for the *particular* attention of the Executive, that they may be put into a proper course of execution.[10]

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[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[11] The notifications to the individual Senators were also dated March 3 and varied from the above only in the phrase "I have desired their attendance," which read "You are desired to attend at the Senate Chamber, Etc." The notification to Senator Theodore Foster, of Rhode Island, in the writing of a clerk in the Department of State, but signed by the President, is in the Huntington Library.

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*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, March 5, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d. instant came duly to hand. The letters which I write to acquaintances or friends, are done at no great expence of time or thought. They are of hand productions, with little attention to composition or correctness, and ever under these circumstances, are rarely attempted when they interfere with my public duties.

From what you have written and from what I have heard from others, I hope Mr. Weston is on the Potomack 'ere this and that much benefit may be expected from his Visit. He is certainly a judicious man. with both theory and practice united. I am pleased to hear that the Locks which have been erected at the little falls have stood the test of a first trial so well; and this pleasure will be increased if Mr. Weston should make a favorable report of them.

An unlucky dispute has or is likely to happen I find, between the *present* Commissioners [and] Mr. Johnson (one of the [old set). These thi]ngs under any view [in which they can be placed] are extreme[ly unpleasant and] are rendered more so wh[en they are brought] before *me*. The po[ints in dispute have not c]ome before me in [*detail;* the *main one* I] am told is, whether the [lots adjoining Roc]k Creek above the Stone bridge come the des[cription of *Water lots;* a]nd would be so construed [in] the contract between the former Commissioners and Mr. Greenleaf. From what I have learnt, it is a question of some magnitude, in as much, as establishing a principle, applicable to the case, will have an extensive effect in favor of, or adverse to, the public property in the City. This being the case, let me ask you, to collect the sentiments of the judicious about you, in the City and in George Town, as far

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as it is to be done from casual (at least not from forced) conversations respecting the dispute, and to inform me thereof. You will readily perceive that it is for my *own,* and *private* information, my request to you proceeds: both the request and answer to it will, of course, be confined to ourselves. With affecte. regard etc.[12]

To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, March 6, 1795.

Dear Sir: About the 20th. of last month I received a letter from you dated at George Town the 12th. of Jany. but which I presume ought to have been dated the 12th. of February.

It came to hand at the time when the Session of Congress was drawing to a close, and of course when the business of it pressed upon me. I therefore laid it aside to be acknowledged by Mr. Potts, but missing that opportunity I was about to do it by Post, when your other favor of the 28th. Ultimo came to hand.

It is with great regret I found by both, that a difference had arisen between the Commissioners and yourself, the precise nature of which I have only a general knowledge. No opinion of mine, on the nature of it, has yet been given; nor, if it respects property, or the construction of a contract, may there be a propriety in my doing it. Sincerely do I wish however that this dispute had not arisen; as sincerely that it could be amicably adjusted upon principles of strict justice.

To say precisely when I shall be in the Federal City, on my way to Mount Vernon (for a very short stay) is more than I am able, but it is more likely to happen between the 10th.

[12] The portions in brackets are supplied from the "Letter Book," the press copy being mutilated.

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and 15th. of April than at any other time I could name at present.

Mr. Carroll has intimated his intention of relinquishing his present Post. To fill it with a well qualified character in its various relations and duties, is of high importance to the welfare of the City. But where is this Character to be found? Doctr. Stuart has named one, who in his opinion, would answer well; but I stand committed to none, nor for none, nor shall I before I visit the City (if this shall happen in the time that is expected). If any person or persons should have come within your view, I should be grateful for their names; and the sooner I receive them the better, that I may have a little time for reflection and comparison altho' the subject may be more fully debated upon when (from what you have written) I may hope and shall expect to meet you in George Town, at which time many other matters respecting the Federal City may be travelled over. That both of us wish it well there can be no doubt; and that justice will be rendered to your exertions to bring it to what it now is, and your future endeavours to promote its growth, and to raise its importance, I have as little hesitation in declaring. With very great esteem etc.[18]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 8, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I am sorry to find by your letter of the 1st. of this instt. enclosing the weekly reports, that the Wheat on the ground is in so unpromising away. Another short crop of this article will fall very heavy upon me. How does the Barley look? It was not my intention to use the Rollers until the frosts were over, and the ground was settled.

[18] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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If the absconding of French's Paul did not proceed from a quarrel with, or threats from, his Overseer, it will be found, I expect, that he has been guilty of some piece of roguery; of the discovery of which he was affraid: pains therefore ought to be taken to apprehend and bring him to punishment.

What sort of lameness is Dicks (at D. Run); that he should have been confined with it for so many weeks? and what kind of sickness is Betty Davis's, that it should have had a similar effect upon her? If pretended ailments, without apparent causes, or visible effects, will screen her from work, I shall get no service at all from her; for a more lazy, deceitful and impudent huzzy, is not to be found in the United States than she is.

Is it Sarah that was among the Spinners at the Mansion house that is now in child-bed? If so, she seems to have begun in time.

I have bought about 1000 yards of Oznabrigs (German) for cloathing of my people at Mount Vernon; but there is no conveyance for it at present. It shall be sent by the first vessel *direct* to Alexandria; but you must not delay this work on acct. of the non-arrival thereof.

I have made considerable enquiry after lucern seed, but do not find, as yet, that I have any certainty of getting that which is good. You had better therefore see if any, on which reliance is to be placed can be had in Alexandria. My enquiries shall not cease on that account.

How does your New Overseer at Mansion house, and at Union farm[14] conduct themselves? Is Allison sober, industrious and attentive? Is he not too much on a level with those he overlooks and of course too familiar with them? or does he keep them at a proper distance, remain always with them, and turn the labour of those hands who come to his aid, to the best advantage? To do this is a matter of considerable importance;

[14] John Groves.

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otherwise the labour which will be lost at the respective farms, will not be gained at the Mansion house. I wish you well etc.

P. S. What price does flour bear in Alexanda now? Superfine has again got up to ten dollars in this City and fine flour to 72/pr barrl.[15]

*To GIUSEPPE CERACCHI[16]

Philadelphia, March 9, 1795.

Sir: I am directed by the President of the United States to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th. instt, and that of the present date; and to express to you his regret at your dispair of bringing your plan of a national monument to a fortunate issue.[17]

Whether there are sufficient grounds for despair, or whether more time may not be necessary to give the Subscription papers a fair trial and to ascertain the result with more precision; you can decide with more accuracy than he, who has not taken, and cannot take, any active part in this business. He has formed no opinion thereon, much less is he enabled to offer you any advice on this subject.

But as you hold out strong indications of deception, and complain of ill treatment without pointing to the instances, he thinks it necessary that an explanation should be had between you and himself; that no charges, hereafter, may lye at his door.

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[15] The P. S. is from the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[16] An Italian sculptor. While in America he signed himself Joseph Ceracchi.

[17] Ceracchi came to the United States in 1791 with a grandiose scheme for erecting a monument to the American Revolution. A broadside of description of the proposed monument, which is signed in manuscript by Randolph, Wolcott, Bradford, Pickering, and Samuel Meredith, is dated Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1795, and is in the *Washington Papers*, bearing Washington's signature to the subscription articles, for "Four shares, or 120 Dollars. The full term of ten years if it shall be found necessary." The scheme failed and Ceracchi returned to Europe, became involved in a plan to assassinate Napoleon, and was guillotined in 1801.

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To do this, it requires nothing more than to draw your attention to circumstances which cannot have escaped your recollection.

Of your intention of coming to this country originally, the President could have had no knowledge, and you had been in the City sometime before he was informed of it. Whilst here, your name was frequently mentioned to him in very advantageous terms. He was told of a design you had projected for the erection of a national monument; that you were preparing the Busts of particular characters in this city; and that you had expressed an earnest desire to take his. This request being reiterated, he, with the reluctance which he has always felt on these occasions, yielded his assent; and accordingly sat for you; without having any other motive than to accommodate your views, or without perceiving any other object on your part than a desire, to take copies from it, if, thereafter, any advantages were likely to result therefrom.

What more (if any thing) might have passed betwn. you and others, on this occasion, he knows not; And with respect to the public edifice, he does not now recollect whether a memorial which you had prepared for Congress was ever presented; or if presented, what the reception of it was; much less does he know of any specific encouragement that could have induced you to return to this country in expectation of prosecuting the plan.

As a public character, he had no power to offer any, because the means of accomplishment were to flow from legislative authority; and as a private man he never could, or would, have committed himself in this affair further than as a Subscriber. Thus much relates to the *first* part of this transaction. With respect to the subsequent part, that is your return to this Country, and what has happened since; the President desires me to remark, that these are events which were adopted without any

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consultation with him or his knowledge, and he heard through a variety of channels of the model of the proposed monument the likenesses of the Busts &ca. before the pressure of business in which he was engaged, would permit him to see them. or to comply with a *second* request that he would set for some alterations in the Bust which was intended for himself; and with which he complied on the same principle which had produced the first sitting: always conceiving, that it was for purposes of your own it was wanted until hints were given that it was designed to be presented to Mrs. Washington. Then for the first time he knew and declared that he could not, and would not accept it as a present.

The preceeding facts are necessary, to acquit the President of having had any agency in your deception, (if you have been deceived), or of involving you in a situation which seems to have become irksome and inconvenient. What follows will shew the ground on which he declines to discharge the acct. wch. is enclosed in your letter of the 7th, before mentioned.

You cannot have forgot, Sir, that when you sent the busts of Bacchus and Ariadne to the President in 1792, and requested his acceptance of them that they were refused, and return'd to you. Upon which, with earnestness (being on the point of your departure and not knowing what to do with them) you requested that they might be permitted to remain in his house. To this he assented, and supposing the object was that they might be exhibited as specimens of your abilities as a Sculptor, he had temporary pedestals made for them to stand on; and always announced them as your workmanship and your property.

On Monday next they will be sent to you; this would have been done today, but company will occupy the Servants, and prevent their being taken down. The Bust intended for the Pre.

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is also at your disposal. Or if you incline to receive for it, *the highest* value that the best artists, or the most skilful Connoisseurs in the City will say is the *intrinsic* worth, he will, notwithstanding this true recital of the case, pay the amount; although it is just to observe, and it may well be supposed he would have been desirs. of knowng. the cost and consulting his own inclination and convenience before it was undertaken if he had not conceived that it was intended for your own use, and not for his.

He desires me to add, that it is with real concern he finds the abilities of our infant republic will not afford employment for a person of your talents. The cause probably is that the United States are just emerging from the difficulties and expences of a long and bloody war and cannot spare money for the purposes of these gratifns. and ornimental figures as in the wealthy countries of Europe. He is sorry also that you should quit them under any embarrassmts. or with discontent, for myself I am &c.[18]

*To CHARLES CARTER

Philadelphia, March 10, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d ulto.[19] came duly to hand. I wish, sincerely, it was in my power to comply with your request in behalf of your son; but it really is not, to the extent of it.

My friends entertain a very erroneous idea of my pecuniary resources, when they set me down for a money lender, or one who (now) has a command of it. You may believe me, when I assert that the Bonds which were due to me before the Revolu-

[18] As denoted by the star, this draft is entirely in Washington's writing. Dandridge, however, wrote and signed the letter sent. (Referred to in Madison's letter to St. George Tucker, Apr. 30, 1830, in the Congressional edition of the *Works of Madison* (Philadelphia: 1865), vol. 4, p. 71.)

The *Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer* (Philadelphia: 1893) notes the following: "March 9. At four o'clock, the Speaker with twenty-two members of the House, dined with President Washington. He was exceedingly affable to all."

[19] This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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tion, were discharged during the progress of it, with a few exceptions in depreciated paper (in some instances as low as a shilling in the pound). That such has been the management of my estate, for many years past, especially since my absence from home, now six years, as scarcely to support itself. That my public allowance (whatever the world may think of it) is inadequate to the expence of living in this city; to such an extravagant height has the necessaries as well as the conveniences of life, arisen. And, moreover, that to keep myself out of debt; I have found it expedient, now and then, to sell lands, or something else to effect this purpose.

These are facts I have no inclination to publish to the world, nor should I have disclosed them on this occasion, had it not been due to friendship, to give you some explanation of my inability to comply with your request. If, however, by joining with nine others, the sum required can be obtained, notwithstanding my being under these circumstances, and notwithstanding the money will be to be withdrawn from another purpose, I will contribute one hundred pounds towards the accommodation of your sons wants, without any view to the receipt of interest therefrom. With very great esteem &c.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, March 10, 1795.

Sir: Congress having closed their late session without coming to any specified determination with respect to the Georgia sale of Lands and the application for the extinguishment of the Indian rights to those Lands; and not having expressed any sentiment respecting the predatory war between the Southern Indians and the southern and south western frontiers of these United States, and the desire of the latter to institute

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offensive measures; it has become indispensably necessary for the Executive to take up the subject upon a full and comprehensive scale, that some systematic plan may be resolved on and steadily pursued during the recess.

To this end, it is my desire that you would select all the letters of recent date wch. have been received from the Governors of Georgia and the South western Territory, with their enclosures; as also those which have in like manner been received from the officer commanding the U. States' troops in the southern quarter, together with the letters of the Indian Agent there and Major Freeman, and from a careful perusal of the whole, and as they stand connected with Spanish policy, state the several points on which the decision of the Executive is necessary; and let me know the earliest day you can have it ready for presentation, that the heads of Departments may be summoned in order to consider the same.

It may not be amiss, at the same time, to examine all the Laws, relative to this subject, which were passed at the last, or at any former session; that no information, or explanation of the sense of Government on this important matter, may be wanting.[20]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, March 11, 1795.

Sir: It has been reported to me by The Secretary of State, that among the laws of the last Session of Congress are several, which require the immediate acting of the President; and he has enumerated those, of which a list annexed,[21] as belonging

[20] From a press copy of the original in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

[21] The list of the acts referred to is also copied on the draft as follows:

"An Act to authorize the President to call out and station a corps of Militia in the four western Counties of Pennsylvania for a limited time."

"An Act for continuing and regulating the military establishment of the United States, and for repealing sundry Acts heretofore passed on that subject."

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to your Department. It is therefore my desire, that you lay before me, as soon as may be convenient, the mode, which appears best for executing them, and that you note such of them, as have been already executed. If any of those laws contain powers to be exercised by the President, not immediately, but at a future day and eventually only, you will distinguish them in your Report to me.[22]

*To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, March 14, 1795.

Dear Sir: As my back lands are not offered for sale with a view to speculate in other lands; and as I am thoroughly satisfied that Lands which are *known* to be good, conveniently situated, and the titles to them indisputable, will continue to encrease in price (especially in the Western counties of this State, since the restoration of tranquility and the influx of money there have taken place), I request, if you have not already entered into any positive, or honorary agreement for my land in Washington county, that it may not be disposed of

"An Act making provision for the purposes of Trade with the Indians."

The same letter was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury with the following list of laws:

"An act authorising a Loan of two millions of Dollars."

"An act providing for the payment of certain instalments of foreign debts; and of the third instalments due on a loan made of the Bank of the United States."

"An act authorising the payment of four thousand Dollars for the use of the Daughters of the late Count de Grasse."

"An act to provide some present relief to the officers of Government and other citizens who have suffered in their property by the insurgents in the western Counties of Pennsylvania."

"An act making further provision for the support of public credit, and for the redemption of the public Debt."

"An act making further appropriations for the military and naval establishments, and for the support of Government."

"An act to authorize a grant of Lands to the French Inhabitants of Galliopolis, and for other purposes therein mentioned."

"An act for the reimbursement of a Loan authorized by an act of the last session of Congress."

The original of this letter and list are in the Connecticut Historical Society.

[22] The draft is in the writing of a clerk in the Department of State.

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at *less* than four dollars an acre, one fourth down, and the other three fourths in five years; with legal interest thereon, the payment of which, at the periods they become due, to be secured as in the proposed sale to Colo. Shreve.

Thirty shillings an acre was the price I fixed on my land in Washington County when forty shillgs was annexed to that in Fayette several years since. The latter having yielded 20 pr Ct. more than the *estimated* price I have no apprehension of the other's falling short of it, provided it be generally known that it is for sale. With very great esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 15, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have received your letter of the 8th. instt., with the reports of the preceeding week.

By the Sloop Harmony, Captn. Ellwood, who talked of Sailing today, I send you as pr. Bill of lading enclosed, a bale of Oznabrigs consisting of ten pieces, amounting to 972½ yards. The Box, and band box, therein mentioned, are for Mrs. Fanny Washington as marked; and is to remain with Colo. Gilpin 'till she calls for them; Besides these, and since the Bill of lading was signed, I have put on board another small box, containing seeds &ca. of various kinds; some of them rare, and valuable. Enclosed is a list of them for your own information and government. There is besides, on each parcel, a label descriptive thereof for the Gardener. All these seeds, except the different sorts of Turnips; the Chiccory; and Botany bay grass-seeds, may be given to the Gardener; with very particular directions to use his utmost skill and care to raise plants from them; and that one thing may not be put here, and another there, and never thought of, or attended to afterwards (which has been

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too often the case with many curious and valuable Seeds, stones, and nuts which I have sent to Mount Vernon) I desire he will prepare a piece of ground *well* for them; and place them altogether, either in the Vineyard, or elsewhere, as he may think best, when he comes to examine the different papers; taking especially care to distinguish by labels (that will not be injured by weather, for it seems some of the Seeds may not come up the first year) the particular spots where each sort is sown, or planted. And as all will be to be transplanted, and the seeds besides, (being imported), may not be good, he need not regard crowding them a little in the first instance. Let him have also as much of each kind of the Turnip seed, and Turnip rooted Cabbage, as he can spare ground to put them in. the rest, with the Chiccory and Botany bay grass seeds, I shall commit to your care as there is enough of the former, that is of the different kinds of Turnips, if good, to sow a good deal of ground; but to prevent any waste of grd., or misapplication of labour in preparing for seed that may not come up, prove all that will admit of it, in time, to see if it will vegitate: for if the seed is old, or has been injured by crossing the seas, and will not come up, preparing ground for it would be lost labor and improper. This trial may readily be made in time, of all the different sorts of Turnips, Cabbage, and possibly of the Chiccory and Botany bay grass seeds. If the latter will come up I recommend the greatest attention to it. The other, that is the Chiccory is what I wrote to you sometime ago, to save all the seed you could from that growg. on my estate.

I have not been able to get any Lucern seed in this City; I wrote on Friday last to New York for five pounds of it; if I succeed there, it shall be sent by Post: in the meantime, let the ground intended for it, be got in the *very best* order; and the natural grass and weeds totally eradicated therefrom; that

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they may not spring up and choke the lucern as was the case when sowed before.

Let Sam supply the place of Bristol, until I come home; unless (which does not occur to me at present) a likely and well disposed young fellow of mans growth, or near it, should be found on my estate fit to make a Gardener of. If one, not among the Dower Negros, could be selected, it would be preferred. Honesty, with some degree of acuteness, are desirable; but in whom amg. my people these are to be found, I know not. Sam has sense enough, and has had a little experience, but he wants honesty, and every other requisite; particularly industry. Cyrus, besides being a Dower slave, is strongly suspected of roguery and drinking; otherwise he would do very well, as he is likely, young, and smart enough. The children of Daphne at the river farm are among the best disposed negros I have, but I do not recollect whether there be any of a fit size.

I have no objection to your complying with the promise you made Mr. Smith provided his salt is kept distinct from mine, and the latter is guarded from embezzlement. I again repeat, that when the Schools of fish run, you must draw night and day; and whether he (Smith) is prepared to take them or not, they must be caught and charged to him: for it is then, and then only I have a return for my expences; and then it is, the want of *several* purchasers, is felt; for unless *one* person is extremely well prepared, he cannot dispose of the fish as fast as they can be drawn at those times and if the Sein, or Seins do no more than to keep pace with his convenience; My harvest is lost, and of course my profit; for the herrings will not wait to be caught, as they are wanted to be cured.

If Mrs. Fanny Washington does not draw a Sein at her own landing, herself, or rent it with a reservation of fish for her own use, let her get what she wants for this purpose, at my land-

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ing; and at any rate, when you have occasion to send to Alexandria, always send some for her Table. And tell Doctr. Stuart if you shd. see him, or send him word if you should not, that he may always get fish for the latter purpose, by sending for them, so may Mr. Lund Washington.

Do you receive Rent from Gray or make him account for it when you pay for the weaving he does for me?

Presuming you saved all the seed you could from the India hemp, let it be carefully sown again, for the purpose of getting into a full stock of seed. I wish you well etc.

P. S. Among other things sent by Captn Ellwood, is a small paper bundle of Pair graffs of an extraordinary fine kind wch. desire the Gardener to be particular attentive to.[28]

*To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Philadelphia, March 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: I received your letter of the 23d. Ulto.; but not at so early a period as might have been expected from the date of it. My mind has always been more disposed to apply the shares in the inland navigations of Potomac and James Rivers (which were left to my disposal by the legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a *University* in the U States, than to any other object it had contemplated. In pursuance of this idea, and understanding that other means are in embryo, for establishing so useful a seminary in the federal city; I did, on the 28th. of Jany. last, announce to the Commrs. thereof, my intention of vesting, in perpetuity, the fifty shares I hold under that act in the navigation of Potomac; as an additional mean of carrying the plan into effect; provided, it should be adopted

[28] The P. S. is not in the press copy, but is added from M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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upon a scale so liberal, and so extensive, as to embrace a *compleat* system of education.

I had but little hesitation in giving the federal dist.[24] a preferrence of all other places for this Institution, and for the following reasons. 1st. on account of its being the permanent Seat of the government of this Union, and where the laws and policy of it must be better understood than in any local part thereof. 2d, because of its centrality. 3d, because one half (or near it) of the district of Columbia, is within the Commonwealth of Virginia; and the whole of the State not inconvenient thereto. 4th, because as *part* of the endowment, it would be useful; but *alone,* would be inadequate to the end. 5th, because many advantages, I conceive, would result from the Jurisdiction which the general government will have over it, wch. no other spot would possess. And, lastly, as this Seminary is contemplated for the *completion* of education, and study of the sciences (not for boys in their rudiments) it will afford the Students an opportunity of attending the debates in Congress, and thereby becoming more liberally, and better acquainted with the principles of law, and government.

My judgment and my wishes point equally strong to the application of the James River shares to the same object, at the same place; but considering the source from whence they were derived, I have, in a letter I am writing to the Executive of Virginia on this subject, left the application of them to a Seminary, *within the State,* to be located by the Legislature.

Hence you will perceive that I have, in a degree, anticipated your proposition. I was restrained from going the whole length of the suggestion, by the following considerations: 1st, I did not know to what extent, or when any plan would be so matured

[24] The press copy has "city," but the letter sent (in the *Jefferson Papers*) was changed to "dist." after the press copy was made.

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for the establishment of an University, as would enable any assurance to be given to the application of Mr. D'Ivernois.[25] 2d, the propriety of transplanting the Professors in a *body,*[26] might be questioned for several reasons; among others, because they might not be all good characters; nor all sufficiently acquainted with our language; and again, having been at variance with the levelling party of their own country, the measure might be considered as an aristocratical movement by more than those who, without any just cause that I have been able to discover, are continually sounding the alarm bell of aristocracy. and 3d, because it might preclude some of the first Professors in other countries from a participation; among whom some of the most celebrated characters in Scotland, in this line, I am told might be obtained.

Something, but of what nature I am unable to inform you, has been written by Mr. Adams to Mr. D'Ivernois. Never having viewed my intended donation as more than a part of the means, that was to set this establishment afloat; I did not incline to go too far in the encouragement of Professors before the plan should assume a more formal shape; much less to induce an entire College to migrate. The enclosed is the answer I have received from the Commissioners: from which, and the ideas I have here expressed, you will be enabled to decide on the best communication to be made to Mr. D'Ivernois.

My letter to the Commissioners has bound me to the fulfilment of what is therein engaged; and if the legislature of Virginia, in considering the subject, should view it in the same light I do, the James River shares will be added thereto; for I think one good Institution of this sort, is to be preferred to two

[25] François D'Ivernois. He had made the proposition to Jefferson. Jefferson's letter to D'Ivernois, Feb. 6, 1795, is in P. L. Ford's *Writings of Jefferson* (Federal edition) 8, 163.

[26] Of the College of Geneva.

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imperfect ones; which, without other aids than the shares in *both* navigations, is more likely to fall through, than to succeed upon the plan I contemplate. Which, in a few words, is to supercede the necessity of sending the youth of this country abroad, for the purpose of education (where too often principles and habits not friendly to republican government are imbibed, which are not easily discarded) by instituting such an one of our own, as will answer the end; and by associating them in the same seminary, will contribute to wear off those prejudices, and unreasonable jealouses, which prevent or weaken friendships and, impair the harmony of the Union. With very great esteem &c.

PS. Mr. Adams laid before me the communications of Mr. D'Ivernois; but I said nothing to him of my intended donation towards the establishment of a University in the Federal District. My wishes would be to fix this on the Virga. side of the Potomac, therein; but this would not embrace, or accord with those other means which are proposed for this establishment.[27]

*To GOVERNOR ROBERT BROOKE

Philadelphia, March 16, 1795.

Sir: Ever since the General Assembly of Virginia were pleased to submit to my disposal fifty shares in the Potomack, and one hundred in the James River company, it has been my anxious desire to appropriate them to an object, most worthy of public regard.

It is with indescribable regret, that I have seen the youth of the United States migrating to foreign countries, in order to acquire the higher branches of erudition, and to obtain a knowledge of the Sciences. Altho' it would be injustice to many to

*From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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pronounce the certainty of their imbibing maxims, not congenial with republicanism; it must nevertheless be admitted, that a serious danger is encountered, by sending abroad among other political systems those, who have not well learned the value of their own.

The time is therefore come, when a plan of Universal education ought to be adopted in the United States. Not only do the exigencies of public and private life demand it; but if it should ever be apprehended that prejudice would be entertained in one part of the Union against another; an efficacious remedy will be, to assemble the youth of every part under such circumstances, as will, by the freedom of intercourse and collision of sentiment, give to their minds the direction of truth, philanthropy, and mutual conciliation.

It has been represented, that an University, corrisponding with these ideas, is contemplated to be built in the federal city; and that it will receive considerable endowments. This position is so eligable from its centrality, so convenient to Virginia, by whose legislature the shares were granted, and in which part of the federal district stands, and combines so many other conveniences, that I have determined to vest the Potomack shares in that University.

Presuming it to be more agreeable to the General Assembly of Virginia, that the shares in the James River company should be reserved for a similar object in some part of that State, I intend to allot them for a Seminary, to be erected at such place, as the wisdom of the Legislature shall deem most proper. I am disposed to believe, that a Seminary of learning upon an enlarged plan, but yet not coming up to the full idea of an University, is an institution to be preferred for the position which is to be chosen. The students, who wish to pursue the whole range of Science, may pass with advantage from the Seminary

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to the University, and the former by a due relation may be rendered cooperative with the latter.

I cannot however dissemble my opinion, that if all the shares were conferred on an University, it would become far more important, than when they are divided; and I have been restrained from concentering them in the same place, merely by my anxiety to reconcile a particular attention to Virginia, with a great good, in which she will abundantly share, in common with the rest of the United States.

I must beg the favor of your Excellency to lay this letter before that honorable body, at their next Session; in order that I may appropriate the James River shares to the place which they may prefer. They will at the sametime again accept my acknowledgments for the opportunity, with which they have favored me, of attempting to supply so important a desideratum in the United States as an University, adequate to our necessity, and a preparatory Seminary. With great consideration and respect, &c.[28]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, March 18, 1795.

Sir: On considering that part of your letter of the [29] instt. which relates to the establishment of a Post at Presqu' Isle I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that the position is eligable, in several points of view, and that the United States

[28] This letter was duly laid before the Virginia Assembly, which resolved, Dec. 1, 1795, that Washington "be requested to appropriate the aforesaid shares in the James River Co. to a seminary at such place in the upper country, as he may deem most convenient to a majority of the inhabitants thereof."

On March 17 Washington wrote to William Pearce, introducing [Ralph] Izard "to whom I request you to pay attention, and to make his visit to Mount Vernon as convenient and agreeable to him as may be in your power." A facsimile of this brief note is in the *Washington Papers*, presented by Emanuel Hertz, of New York City.

[29] March 6. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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ought to fix one there. The doubt I have is, from whence, in the reduced, and reducing state of the Legion, and the uncertainty of the negotiation of Peace with the Western Indians a competent force is to be obtain'd to possess and garrison it. On the last of these points a report will be expected from you.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 22, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 15th. and the reports of the preceeding week, have come duly to hand.

I am glad to hear that your new Overseers turn out so well. Of Groves I had not the least knowledge; my fear of Allison was, that he would be too familiar with those he overlooked, and of course would carry no authority. If he avoids this error, and is sober, honest, industrious, and stays at home and with his people, when at work, it is all that can be required of him; for I never meant to entrust anything to him that did not pass under your directions.

I received twenty pounds of Lucern seed from New York, as a present from a gentleman there of my acquaintance; on the goodness of which entire dependence may be placed. Five pounds of which shall accompany this letter, that the lot for which it is intended, may be more plentifully sown with *this*

On March 20 Washington signed a permit for the exportation of military stores according to the Act of Congress of Mar. 3, 1795; but no destination is given. An official contemporary copy of this permit, and also of the invoice of stores exported, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 21 Washington signed a warrant to the Secretary of the Treasury, empowering him "or any other person or persons to borrow on behalf of the United States of the Bank of the United States or any other body or bodies politic, person or persons, any sum not exceeding in the whole five hundred thousand Dollars, and to make or cause to be made for that purpose such contract or contracts as shall be necessary for the Interest of the said States." This by virtue of the act of March 3 "making further appropriations for the military and naval establishments and for the support of Government." This warrant is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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seed than I at first designed, under the prospect I then had of obtaining *any* at all of it. Not knowing how much ground the lot contains, I am unable to direct the quantity of seed which it ought to receive; but I would have you allow at the rate of eight pounds of lucern, and the like quantity of clover mixed, to the Acre. and as I know that ground was extremely foul, it has occurred to me to ask you (who can judge better on the spot than I can at a distance) whether it might not be advisable to delay sowing it until August; plowing it in the meantime as often as it shall appear to require. If it is not already sown, and you should prefer August (for the reason I have assigned) to the present time this work may be delayed. All grasses ought to be sown on *clean* and well prepared ground, especially those near a dwelling house, wch. attract the eyes of all visitors.

This observation applies to grain as well as grass; for which reason, however desirable it might have been, to have got the Oats in the ground soon, I had rather hear it was delayed than that it should be sown before every thing was in perfect order for it; for it is a *fixed* principle with me, that whatever *is done* should be *well done*. Unless this maxim is attended to, our labor is but in vain, and our expectation of a return, is always deceptious; whilst we are ascribing our disappointments to any thing rather than the true cause, namely not laying (by proper preparations) a good foundation, on which to build our hopes.

I observe what you say of Betcy Davis &ca. but I never found so much difficulty as you seem to apprehend, in distinguishing between *real* and *feigned* sickness; or when a person is *much* afflicted with pain. Nobody can be very sick without having a fever, nor will a fever or any other disorder continue long upon any one without reducing them: Pain also, if it be such as to yield entirely to its force, week after week, will appear by its effects; but my people (many of them) will lay up a month,

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at the end of which no visible change in their countenance, nor the loss of an oz of flesh, is discoverable; and their allowance of provision is going on as if nothing ailed them. There cannot, surely, be any *real* sickness under such circumstances as I have described; nor ought such people to be improperly endulged. It should be made one of the *primary* duties of every Overseer to attend closely, and particularly to those under his care who really are, or pretend to be, sick; to see that the first receive aid and comfort in time, and before it is too late to apply them; and that the others do not impose upon him. In the first case you ought to be immediately notified, as delay is often dangerous; and in the second, where the matter is at all doubtful, you ought to be the judge, for I am as unwilling to have any person, in my service, forced to work when they are unable, as I am to have them skulk from it, when they are fit for it.

It is highly probable Paul has left these parts (by water or land). If Mr. Dulany is disposed to pursue any measure for the purpose of recovering *his* man, I will join him in the expence so far as it may respect Paul; but I would not have my name appear in any advertisement, or other measure, leading to it.

Tell the Gardener, when he dresses the Artichokes, to put up a number of the Slips, securely, for a Gentleman of my acquaintance; and let them be sent by the first vessel afterwards, to this City. I am etc.

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, March 24, 1795.

Gentlemen: As I may have appear'd somewhat indecisive respecting square No 21[80] in the federal city, I should not be

[80] In "Hamburg."

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surprised if you are at a loss to understand my meaning, in that particular.

The Commissioners on my application, agreed to let me have, first a quarter, then half, and finally the whole of that square. My mind settled on the last; but not being able (from the accident I met with) when I was at that place in June, to view the whole of it myself, nor to obtain such accurate information of the several parts, as respected the shape and declivity of the hill, to ascertain which was essential for my plan of improvement; I paid for no more than a moiety thereof.

I have since recollected, and indeed have been informed, that neither moiety will answer without the other for the purpose I contemplate, that is, buildings and a garden (when my means will enable me to encounter the expence).

This being the case, I repeat my wish to possess the other moiety of the said square. But if in your judgment, my delay has involved any inconvenience, or by paying for the half only, it argued a deriliction of the whole, and fresh terms must be made; you have only to name them; for as I mean to do nothing wrong in this business myself, it is not my wish, or desire, that you should do otherwise than right.

I should be glad to hear from you on this subject as soon as it is convenient; because I shall have the needful to provide for the first payment; and I wd. take it with me about the middle of next month; when, if nothing unforeseen happens, I expect to be on my way to Mount Vernon, for a short stay. I am etc.[81]

*To J. SAVARY

Philadelphia, March 25, 1795.

Sir: I have given the propositions contained in your letter of the 19th. instant [82] the consideration they merit. The result is,

[81] From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[82] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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an indisposition to accede to them. At the same time, I pray you to accept my thanks for the tender you have made me of your services to carry them into execution.

My reasons for declining to embark in the project you have offered (at least at the present) are: 1st. the greater desire I have to dispose of the whole, than a part of any tract of which I am possessed; that I may thereby have the use of the money arising from the sale, or the interest thereof whilst it may be of service to me, rather than look forward to future advantages. 2d. If a small part only of the projected number of 870 lots in the one case, and 700 in the other should be disposed of, and these too indifferent situations, remote perhaps from one another (according to the fancy of the purchasers) they would, for a consideration of little or no value, be alienated from the proprietor of the tract, become an inconvenience to him, and perhaps a real disadvantage in the Sale of it thereafter whilst the preemption right to *out* lots ties up for 12 or 18 months according to the plan which is submitted, the sale of all that part which is so subjected. 3d. By the plan which is contemplated, my name, both in Europe and here must appear in the project and would be bandied about in the public prints. A measure which would not by any means, be agreeable to me, a simple sale being the extent of my object and wishes. 4th. Admitting that the scheme should succeed in the manner and to the extent which is proposed yet as I have no collateral object in view, the property as I have observed before, would in part be tied up in uncertainty for a while, and the proceeds afterwards would be received so slowly and in such driblets, as to melt away without affording me the benefits I aim at.

For these reasons I am more disposed to wait longer and try the chance of selling by whole tracts, than to dispose of parts thereof, in any manner, or for any purpose whatsoever. And

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tho' I am sensible that the real value of the lands I hold on the Ohio cannot be obtained at the present moment, yet I have had some reason to think that, on credit, land of such quality and so situated, with indisputable titles would command five dollars an acre.

If your estimates are formed on good data, and a proper knowledge of circumstances; and as you have a lateral object of considerable importance in view (I mean enhancing by such an establishment the value of the circumjacent lands of which you hold large quantities) the inducement which you would have on these accts. to be possessed of one, or more of my tracts, must be very great; and if you are so inclined the purchase may be made at a guinea an acre; one fourth paid down, and the remaining three fourths in five years with interest, the regular payment of which to be secured in a manner to be agreed upon. I am etc.

*To THOMAS MARSHALL

Philadelphia, March 25, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been presented with your letter by Mr. H. Marshall whose detention in the Atlantic States will be longer than he expected on acct. of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and navigation with Great Britain[88] not arriving in season for the Senate to pass their opinion upon; and a considerable time is required to convene them together again, after their dispersion.

I was glad to hear from Mr. Marshall that you continued to enjoy tolerable good health, perfect health at our time of life is not to be expected. The natural decline of men, after they have entered into; or passed their grand climacteric, will make its

[88] Known as "Jay's Treaty."

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appearance in a variety of ways, too prominently for figures in the back ground of the picture.

I find by a law of your State republished in the Gazettes of this city, that from non-resident landholders, certain things are required to be done, by, or in the month of, November next. In the county of (what was or still is) Jefferson, I hold five thousand acres in two surveys, with which I pray you to do the needful in my behalf and I will repay the amount of the expence to your order, at any time.

As this land is far removed from me, and as I have, in the course of my experience, found that distant property produces more plague than profit; I would dispose of it, provided the sale thereof would amount to near the present value of the land. What this is, I can judge only from information; and after all, the quality of the soil, its situation, and local advantages must be decided by Hudibras's rule: "worth what they will fetch."

The plats of these tracts with the observations thereon, and Colo. Greenups opinion to which (Genl. Scott, who obtained it says) he added, that lands in those parts according to quality and local advantages, were worth from ten to twenty shillings an Acre, is all the evidence I have of the value of mine, except having Patents for it.

If with these documents, copies of which I send, you could conveniently aid me in disposing of them, I would thank you. If a fourth of the purchase money was paid down at the time of transfer, I would allow a credit of four or even five years for the residue, provided that the principal is well secured, and the interest thereof punctually paid every year, whenever it becomes due.

I should be unwilling without further and more accurate information of this land to take less for it than the lowest price above mentioned, and it would be uncandid to say, I should

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object to the largest, if there should be found any thing therein to deserve it. I should be glad to hear from you on the several points of this letter. With very great esteem and regard. I am etc.

*To MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL MORGAN

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: The interest, which you have taken in the safety of John Mitchell, as expressed in your letter of the 19th. of January last, would be an inducement to me to go, as far in relieving him, as public propriety will admit. But the Attorney-general having made a report of which the enclosed is a copy, I think it advisable to postpone the further consideration until his trial shall have taken place.

It has afforded me great pleasure to learn, that the general conduct and character of the Army[84] has been temperate and indulgent; and that your attention to the quiet and comfort of the western inhabitants has been well received by them. Still it may be proper constantly and strongly to impress upon the Army that they are mere agents of Civil power: that out of Camp, they have no other authority, than other citizens that offences against the laws are to be examined, not by a military officer, but by a Magistrate; that they are not exempt from arrests and indictments for violations of the law; that officers ought to be careful, not to give orders, which may lead the agents into infractions of law; that no compulsion be used towards the inhabitants in the traffic, carried on between them and the army: that disputes be avoided, as much as possible, and

[84] Of militia sent against the Pennsylvania insurrectionists.

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be adjusted as quickly as may be, without urging them to an extreme: and that the whole country is not to be considered as within the limits of the camp.

I do not communicate these things to you for any other purpose, than that you may weigh them; and, without referring to any instructions from me, adopt the measures, necessary for accomplishing the foregoing objects. With great regard etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 29, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have received your letter of the 22d. inst. with its enclosures.

Had Mr. Pierce Bailey accepted the terms on which I offered him my land on difficult run, without proposing an abatement of interest, after I had declared I never would lower them, the bargain would have been concluded on my part. As he did not, but is still attempting to make other terms, I shall suspend saying any thing further on the subject until I come to Virginia, which, if nothing unforeseen at present, intervenes, will be by the 20th. of April, as my intention is to commence my journey for Mount Vernon on the 13th, or at farthest, the 14th of that month. I shall be better able to decide then, than now, what will be best for me to do in this matter. Land situated as that of mine is on Difficult, with the advantages attending it, is in no danger of falling in price, when all the circumjacent lands are rising most rapidly in theirs, by the coming of all the world as it were to this country for the purpose of buying lands.

I hear with concern, of the injury of the New Meadow at Dogue run has sustained. I had great expectation from it (knowing, as I do, the goodness of the Soil). If you have Seed, let the parts which have been covered, and all others that are

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too thin, be re-sown, and a light harrow, or roller, run over, to bury the seed. If the water (in freshes) has not sufficient vent at the bridge, would it not be proper to widen the passage at that place? It is a pity to subject so valuable a meadow as that might be made, to such disasters, where the remedy is at hand, and not difficult.

The weather since thursday has been worse than at any period through the winter: what effect it has had, or may have on the growing grain; the grass; and the fields which are to be sown and planted; you, much better than I, can decide. You may continue to write me as usual, informing me of these things; for the letters that do not come here before I set out, I shall find on the Road, at one or other of the Post Offices.

If Moses at the Mill is of sufficient size for the purposes of the Garden, I see no material objection to his being placed there; indeed with so little Merchant work as is done at my Mill, I never saw much occasion for *him* at the place. for the Miller *knows,* that by his agreement, he *ought* to be Coopering himself, when he is not employed in the Mill; and he *certainly* knows too, that the Mill does not require half his time: in the summer, scarcely any of it. Hard therefore would it be, if Jack and Tom, with such occasional aid as himself and Ben could afford, is not sufficient to keep the Mill in Barrels.

I did not expect Gray's rent wd. otherwise be received than as a credit to his weaving acct. If this is done, 'tis sufficient.

I perceive Isaac is still employed in making Ploughs, whilst Donaldson is working at the Carpenters trade. The principal advantage I expected to derive from the latter, was the character he had of being skilled in making of these, and other implments of husbandry; and the insight the former would get by attending him in this work.

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I send the Gardener a small paper of Pease of which desire him to make the most seed he can, as they were given to me for a very valuable sort.

An English Gentleman, of family and fortune, of the name of Strickland,[35] from whom I received the Turnip and many other seeds which were forwarded by the last Vessel from this place, will, I expect, be at Mount Vernon before I shall. If this should happen, (and he will have a line from me to you) I request you to treat him with all the attention and civility in your power. He is a plain man in his dress and manners, and being a farmer, may wish to go over my farms, if this should be the case, I request you to ride with him over them.[36] As I expect you have (according to my former request) got some red wine, let him have of this, and some of that kind of Madeira which was left out by Mrs. Fanny Washington. Whether you have Porter in the house, or not, I am unable to say; but I desire it may be there, as well for him, as against I come home. I wish you well, and am etc.

*To GEORGE GILPIN

Philadelphia, March 29, 1795.

Dear Sir: As I know you are well acquainted with the lands and [illegible] price of them, of late, in the vicinity of the Great falls of Potomac, I take the liberty of asking your opinion of the value of the tract of (about) 300 acres, which I have in Loudoun County, at difficult bridge, on the road from Alexandria to Leesburgh.

That you may be enabled thereby to judge of this matter I shall inform you that you get upon my land as soon as you cross

[35] William Strickland.

[36] On March 30 Washington wrote briefly to Jefferson, introducing Strickland, who intended to visit the Shenandoah Valley. This letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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the bridge; the distance of which from Mt. Vernon, the federal City and Alexandria, you know as well as I do. That (the main) difficult run bounds my land ¾ of a mile, that the branch which empties into it just above the bridge, passes through the same, making a constant stream; has a fine fall in it, where a dam of not more than 50 feet would be sufficient for the purpose of a Mill; and that I hold one side of the best spot on the maind (difficult) run from another Mill. The whole tract consists of land well calculated for farming, and a large proportion of it may be converted into meadow, at no great expence.

I can get £1500 for the tract; [illegible] of which paid down, and the residue in four years (I presume) with interest.

Is *this* under the present rise of property in *that* part of the Country an inadequate price? or ought I to look for more? for according to Hudibras' rule, every thing you have is worth what it will fetch. As I must answer the propositions which are made to me for this land, *soon*, your reply to this letter as soon as is convenient to you, will very much oblige Dear Sir, Yr. etc.

*To PHILIP RICHARD FENDALL

Philadelphia, March 29, 1795.

Dear Sir: The request I am about to make requires an apology; but I will rely more on your goodness than anything I can say, for my excuse.

In Loudoun County at Difficult bridge, I have a small tract (of about) 300 Acres of land which I am disposed to sell, and some are willing to buy. It is bounded by the Difficult stream ¾ of a mile, and forms one side of a principal seat for a mill; besides which there passes through the middle of it, a branch which is constant, with a considerable fall, requiring a Dam of not more than 50 feet, excellent for another Mill. The whole

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tract consists of land *well* adapted to farming; a large proportion of which might be converted into good meadow, at no great expence. I have been offered £5 an Acre for it, part down, and the residue in a few years, (I presume) with interest. The request I make therefore is this an adequate price for land with the advantages I have described; situated as they are; viz 19 miles from Alexandria and about 3 miles from Matildaville?

The reason why I trouble you with this enquiry is, that I know you have property in that part of the Country, and are well acquainted with the rise of property in the vicinity of the federal city.

Your answer, as soon as it is convenient to you to give it, would oblige me, I must give mine in a very short time. With esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, March 31, 1795.

My dear Sir: By yesterdays Post, I recd. the enclosed letter from Mr. Cabot (one of the Senators from Massachusetts) covering another from Judge Phillips[87] (one of the most respectable characters in Andover, where the Academy is).

Mr. Cabot, who is a sensible and judicious man, is the person I requested to make enquiry into the present state of things at Andover (having had two, or more sons educated at that Seminary). Mr. Phillip's gives it and both may be relied on. It rests with you to decide, whether you will send your Sons there, or not; and with me to give the information which is required in Judge Phillips's letter and this as soon as you will enable me to do it.

[87] Judge Samuel Phillips.

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It is unlucky, that conveyances to you by Post are so tedious, if not uncertain; and that other opportunities rarely happen. About the 20th. of April I shall be at Mount Vernon for a stay of a few days *only*. If, therefore, you cannot get a letter to me at this place by the 14th; nor to Mount Vernon by the 30th: of that month; I shall not receive it until after I shall have returned to this city; which wd. be a little out of season. Having stated these matters to you, as they have come to me, I have only to add that with sincere friendship, and affecte. regard I am etc.[38]

*LIST OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

[March, 1795.]

States	Offices	Officers have been	Now are
New Hampshire	Commr. settling accts. between U. S and individl. St.	Woody. Langden[39]	.....
		Nichs. Gilman	.....
Massachusetts.	Secy of War	.....	General Knox
	Judge S. Court	.....	Wm. Cushing
	Minister Hold.	.....	Jno. Adams Junr.[40]
	Post Mastr. Genl.	Saml. Osgood	.....
	Indn. Commr.	Benj Lincoln	.....
	Treasr. Mint	Tristm. Dalton	.....
Rhode Isld	.....	.....	.....
Vermont	.....	.....	.....
Connecticut.	Ministr. Port	.....	David Humphreys

[38] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.
[39] Woodbury Langdon.
[40] John Quincy Adams.

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States	Offices	Officers have been	Now are
Connecticut.	Commr. Indns.	Davd. Humphreys	.....
	Auditor	Olivr. Wolcot	.....
	Comptroller	.....	Olivr. Wolcot
New York.	Secy. of Treasury	.....	Alexr. Hamilton
	Chief Justice	.....	John Jay
	Ministr. France	Govr. Morris	.....
New Jersey.	Judge S. Court	.....	Wm. Patterson
Pennsylvania.	Judge S. Court	.....	James Wilson
	Attorney Genl.	.....	Wm. Bradford
	Postmr. Genl.	.....	Tim Pickering
	Director of Mint	.....	D. Rittenhouse
	Commr. Revenue	.....	Tench Coxe
	Govr. No. W. Terry.	.....	Arthr. St. Clair
	Treasur. U. S.	.....	Saml. Meridith
	Accomptt. W. D	.....	Joseph Howell
	Judge No. Wn. Tery.	.....	Geo: Turner
	Comr. in chief A:	.....	Anthy. Wayne
	Brigr. General	.....	Jams. Wilkinson
	Qr. Mastr. General	.....	OHarra[41]
	Comr. Accts. U. S. & In: S[42]	Wm. Irvine	
	Indian Comr.	Timy. Pickering	
	Besides Subordinate Characters in the Mint		
Maryland	Judge Supe. Court	Thos. Johnson	.....
	Ministr. in Spain.	Wm. Carmichael	.....

[41] James O'Harra.
[42] Individual States.

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States	Offices	Officers have been	Now are
Maryland	Judge Sup Court	Robt. H. Harrison	.....
	Commisr. Fedl. Distt.		
	Ditto Do		Danl. Carroll
	Ditto Do	.....	Gusto. Scott
Virginia	Secy. of State	Thos. Jefferson	.....
	Ditto Do		Edmd. Randolph
	Atty. General	Edmd. Randolph	
	Minisr. France	.....	James Monroe
	Ditto Spain	.....	Willm. Short
	Auditor of Accts.	.....	Richd. Harrison
	Register	.....	Joh. Nourse [43]
	Indn. Commr.	Beverley Randolph	.....
	Commr. Fedl. Dists.	David Stuart	.....
No. Carolina ...	Judge Sup. Court	.....	Jas. Iredal
	Govr. So. Wn. Terry.	.....	Wm. Blount
So. Carolina	Judge Sup Court	Jno. Rutledge	.....
	Minr. G. Britain	.....	Thos. Pickney [44]
	Comptroller	Nichs. Eveleigh	.....
	Comr. U. S and In S	John Kean	.....
Georgia and Kentucky	have furnished no characters		
New Hampshire	.....	.....	.....

[43] Joseph Nourse.
[44] Thomas Pinckney.

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States	Offices	Officers have been	Now are
Massachusetts ..	John Adams junr.	.....	
	Elbridge Gerry	.....	H K.[45] and A. H.[46]
	Charles Jervis	.....	A. H.
	Christn. Gore	.....	A. H.
	Willm. Dana	.....	
	James Bowdoin	.....	
	James Sullivan	.....	A. H.
Rhode Island ...	.....	.....	.....
Vermont.....	.....	.....	.....
Connecticut .. .	David Humphreys	.....	to be exchanged
	Joel Barlow	.....	now in France
	Pierpoint Edwards		
New York	George Clinton	.....	A H.
	Willm. S. Smith		
	Brockht. Livingston		
New Jersey.....	Willm. Patterson		
	Saml. Stockton		
	Wm. Temple Franklin		
Pennsylvania ...	Thos. Mifflin	.....	A. H. and E R[47]
	Willm. Bingham	.....	A H. and H K.
	Willm. Bradford	.....	A H.
	Jared Ingersol	.....	A H.
	Chas. Thompson[48]	.....	H. K.

[45] Henry Knox.
[46] Alexander Hamilton.
[47] Edmund Randolph.
[48] Charles Thomson.

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States	Offices	Officers have been	Now are
Pennsylvania...	Richd. Peters	.....	
	Chas. Petitt	.....	
Delaware	John Dickenson		
Maryland	Thomas Johnson	.....	A H
	Willm. Paca	.....	E R and A H
	Thos. S. Lee	.....	A H and H K
	James McHenry	.....	A H
Virginia	Thos. Jefferson	.....	A H. and H K
	James Madison	.....	A H. and H K
	Henry Lee	.....	E R. A H. and H K.
	Patrick Henry	.....	
	James Innes	.....	E R
	Edmd. Randolph	.....	A H
	John Marshall	.....	A. H.
	Cyrus Griffin	.....	
North Carolina..	.....	.....	.....
South Carolina..	John Rutledge	.....	A. H. and H K
	Edwd. Rutledge	.....	E R. A H and H K
	Chs. C. Pinckney	.....	A. H.
	Chas. Pinckney	.....	
Georgia.....	Nathl. Pendleton	.....	A. H.
	Baldwin	.....	A. H.
Kentucky	.....	.....	.....
	Aaron Burr		
	John Rutherford		

*To JOHN GILL

Philadelphia, April 1, 1795.

Sir: Having had a more advantageous offer for my land on Difficult run, than that which is contained in your letter of the 26th. Ulto; it follows of course that the one made by you, cannot be agreed to.

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I have not acceeded to the offer wch. I have just alluded to, nor shall I dispose of the Land until I come to Virginia, and can obtain more accurate information, than I am able to do at this distance, of the rise, and present price of lands within the distance mine is to the federal city &ca., with the advantages it possesses.

If you should think proper to come forward again, when I am there, with new propositions, I shall be ready to hear them.

In the meantime I am etc.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, April 5, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I perceive by your last report, enclosed in your letter of the 29th ulto. that Carter Ben, at River farm, has been laid up many weeks; with a person to attend him the whole time. What is the nature of his complaint? When these extraordinary cases happen, let the report respecting them, say what the cause is; without which, and at this distance from the scene, it is not easy [49] to conjecture even what the matter is.

Whether would it be best to let the lot at Mansion house (intended for Lucern) remain a *naked fallow,* stirring the ground now and then until seeding time, or plant it early with Potatoes (which may be taken off by, or early in August)? The last, *well* manured, would be productive; and *well* cultivated, would prepare the ground for the Lucern which is to follow. I leave it to you to do the one, or the other, as from circumstances shall appear best. If the Potatoe plan is preferred, let part (and not the best part, but every other row for instance) be planted with the shoots, as directed in the Pamphlet I gave you the reading of last year; and which I believe was, tho' not effectually,

*M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon,* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), has "for me."

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by the Gardener, tried last year. I have promised to make the experiment *accurately,* and wish you to attend to it accordingly; either on the ground just mentd. or some other.

I am sorry for the impediments you have met with from the weather, in sowing your Oats; but over this there is no controul; and nothing for us,[50] but submission; and I have only to repeat on this head that I had rather encounter delay, than not sow when the ground is in prime order for it.

As all danger from frost must now be over, your winter grain will have assumed its spring appearance (since vegitation is advancing rapidly also), and what is the appearance of your different fields? Do not neglect the Roller if you can apply it to any advantage; and this I am sure it will, not only to the grain the roots of which have been thrown out of the ground but to grass also, especially clover, if you are in condition to use it.

You know how much a friend I am to cutting small grain before it is suffered to get too ripe. The enclosed advertisement carries the matter farther than I shd. incline to risque a *quantity;* but the ascertainment of so important a fact is well worth risking an acre or two, and it is my wish that it should be done; at the same time that I would have the *whole* harvest begun at an earlier period than is usual, with most farmers.

I hope the Honey locust seed are in the ground, that they may vegitate and get above ground before the weather may become hot and dry.

I had no other objection to the advertising of Paul than that of having my name appear therein; at least in any papers North of Virginia and that he has not gone South of it, is natural to infer, if he was governed by motives of policy, or advice.

[50] Conway's text has "remains."

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I still expect to be with you about the time mentioned in my last, and therefore shall only add that I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, April 6, 1795.

Sir: Having fixed on Monday the 13th. instt. to commence my journey for Virginia, and made arrangements to do business in the federal city on my way down accordingly: It is my desire that the instructions for Genl. Wayne's government, at the treaty which is proposed to be held with the Western Indians in June next, may be laid before me without delay, that I may have time to consider them. It is my further desire that all such other matters as may require any opinion, or directions of mine before the fifth of May, ensuing, may be submitted to me as early in the present week, as you are able to prepare them.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, April 7, 1795.

Sir: I have perused the Bill which you sent me for laying out a town &ca. at Presqu-Isle.

The portion of land allotted for a fortification at that place by the 4th. section, is much too small for the object; for if ever the work is assailed, the houses and other obstructions within range of its shot must be removed, or the artillery therein would be rendered useless and of course the defence insufficient; whilst under cover of these obstructions, approaches would be made undiscovered and without loss. Fortifications ought always to be placed upon the *most* commanding ground, as well for annoyance as defence; why therefore confine the

On April 6 Washington wrote a brief acknowledgment to Rev. Jedidiah Morse for two discourses which Morse delivered on the national Thanksgiving Day. This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

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one intended to be erected at Presqu-Isle to the *South* side of the harbour, when a more eligable site for the purpose might be found on the other? Why not give the Und. States while their troops occupy the Post the same interest and priviledges therein, as is required by them elsewhere? It appears to me expedient, that through the same medium, which presented the Bill to you, or some other indirect channel, the defects here mentioned, should be made known *in time* for amendments if it shall so please the Legislature.

By the 12th. Section of the aforesaid Bill, it would seem that as soon as troops of the United States are sent to Presqu-Isle, the Governor is required to discharge those belonging to the State; except such as shall be found necessary to cover the Commissioners &ca. How then in the *present* moment is this work to be executed? that is, by whom, and under whose auspices and direction? All these things are essential and ought to be clearly understood, and without delay; as I want, before I leave the city, to know precisely upon what footing the matter can be placed.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, April 12, 1795.

Dear Sir: The following details will enable you to comply with the request of Mr. Henry Wade.

On the Great Kanhawa, and bounded thereby, I hold, and am disposed to sell, about 24,000 acres of land in four Patents: the smallest of which contains 2000 acres. These 2000 acres lie in the forks of the Kanhawa and Coal rivers, at the confluence of the two, and upon both. Opposite thereto, on the East side of the river (Kanhawa) I have another tract of 3,000 acres. About half way between the last mentioned, and the town Mount pleasant, which lies at the mouth of the Kanhawa and on the east side also, I have another tract of upwards of 7000

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acres. And near Mount pleasant, but on the west side of the river (Kanhawa) begins the other tract of near 11,000 acres, which is bounded by the river more than 17 miles. None of these tracts have any settlers on them with, or of which I have any acquaintance or knowledge.

It does not appear by Mr. Wades letter which you have shewn me, to which of these tracts his inclinations are directed. All of them are river low grounds of first quality, but neither of them am I disposed, at present, to parcel out into lots, and selling them otherwise, depends altogether upon the price that would be given. I refused a guinea an acre for part, and not the most valuable part, of my western lands. If by dividing the land into 500 acre lots it would sell better, and more readily, it only remains for Mr. Wade (if he wants 1000 acres only) to get others to unite with him, to answer his purpose and mine also.

As my view in selling, is to place the money where I can draw the interest regularly as it becomes due, the larger the sum which is paid down the better it would suit me. For the remainder, a credit of three or four years might be given, provided the principal is secured, and interest thereon punctually paid every year as soon as it becomes due, either to me or my Agent.

As many persons are wanting these lands of mine, from the knowledge they have of their quality, situation, and the indisputableness of their titles; they will not, I am persuaded, remain long in my possession: or if they do, the price will be raised as this kind of property increases in value, or gets more in demand. I am etc.

On April 11 an invitation was sent to Washington from a committee, in behalf of a number of American, French, and Dutch citizens, to attend "a Civic Festival" on April 17, "to celebrate the late victories of the French Republic, and the emancipation of Holland." It is signed by Dubois pere, Benjn. Franklin Bache, and M. H. Messchert, and is indorsed by Washington: "*Intended as an Insult* It is presumed."

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To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, April 12, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 5th, with its enclosures, I received yesterday.

I propose to commence my journey for Mount Vernon tomorrow but as the road through Maryland, by information, is almost impassible, and business will detain me a day or two at the federal city, I do not expect to reach home before sunday (this day week).

This being the case, my letter will be short; I shall add however, that I was, as you supposed, under a mistake with respect to the meadow which has been injured by the freshes. Be this however as it may, the injured parts should be resown; and as soon as the ground is in order for it, if you have seed to do it; which is the reason of my mentioning it now, to avoid delay. If that, or the other meadows, was once well taken with Timothy, floods would not wash of[f] the soil, nor in other respects be injurious. I am etc.

Monday morning 13th April. The day is storming I shall wait therefore until it ceases before I set out.[51]

*To JOHN BEALE BORDLEY

Philadelphia, April 13, 1795.

Dr. Sir: A double sett of Youngs Annals was sent to me sometime ago, by that Gentleman, without his mentioning for whom the duplicates were intended. Taking it for granted however that they were meant to be presented to the Agricultural Society of this City, and understanding that you are Vice-

[51] The text is from M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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President thereof I take the liberty of committing them to your care for the use of the said Society.

I also send for the information, and such other uses as the Society may think proper to make of it Maunsell's experimts. in the culture of Potatoes from the Shoots. With very great esteem etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, April 13, 1795.

Sir: It would be equally improper (on account of the expence, and other inconveniences which would attend the measure) to continue the Militia army in the western counties in this State, longer in service than the nature and exigency of the case may require or, under the reports which prevail of threatenings against the Collectors, and other indications of latent discontent, to disband it before a full submission to the revenue laws is unequivocally manifested. Under this view of the subject it would seem most adviseable and proper, to reduce the force there by degrees, and to begin this without delay, accompanying it with your best endeavours to discover, the real temper, and true state of things in that quarter, that it may be known when the whole may be disbanded with safety and propriety. Conformably to these ideas, I would have you act.[52]

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*The original of this letter is in the possession (1932) of Frances W. Story, of Cambridge, Mass.

On April 14 Washington wrote a brief note of thanks to Rev. Isaac Story, of Marblehead, Mass., for the sermons sent him.

On this same day (April 14) Dandridge wrote to John M. Pintard that the ship *Ganges*, belonging to Willing & Francis, was about to sail from Philadelphia for the East Indies, stopping at Madeira on the way out, and that the owners had offered to take from Madeira two pipes of wine for the President. Pintard was therefore requested to ship two pipes of the best Madeira to the President "the cost of which shall be paid to your order." The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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To EDWARD CARRINGTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, April 20, 1795.

Dear Sir: Although I have little reason to hope that, the offer I am going to make you will meet your approbation; yet from full conviction in my mind, that no one could, or would, discharge so important a trust with more energy and propriety than yourself; I am induced to make it. It is of the highest consequence to this Union, and to the Southern States in particular, that the public buildings in the Federal City (intended for the accomodation of Congress after the year 1800) and the other interests of that establishment should be pushed with vigor. The execution of this business is entrusted by law to three Commissioners, under the direction of the President of the United States. The present Commission is composed of Messrs. Danl. Carroll, Gustavus Scott and Doctr. Thornton. The first of whom, from age and infirmities, wishes to withdraw; to fill his place with an energetic successor is not only very interesting to the public and difficult, but is also of much solicitude with me; and, not being able to contemplate a character who possesses such peculiar qualities for this Office as you do, I am induced (notwithstanding your declining lately to accept another appointment, and you must excuse me therefor) to make you the offer of it: among other reasons, but of a secondary nature because, if you should refuse, to accept, I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that nothing, on my part, has been omitted to obtain a fit Character.

On the score of Salary, the Office of a Commissioner of the Federal City, is not equal, being annually sixteen hundred Dollars only, to the one I have alluded to, but it is not an Office

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requiring the same confinement, and, perhaps, when compared with the expense of living in Philadelphia, and being nearer to your own estate (which in your former letter you observed required your attention) may have advantages which the other did not possess.

I came to this place last night,[53] to take a transient view of the situation of my private concerns in this quarter and my present intention is to leave it again, on my return to Philadelphia, on Monday next; by the Post which arrives in Alexandria on that day, it would be satisfactory to me, sooner I presume it cannot be, to hear from you on the subject of this letter, if it be convenient to give one.[54] I am etc.[55]

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, April 21, 1795.

My dear Sir: On the 16th. instt, at Baltimore, I met your letter of the 10th; and the next day forwarded it to Mr. Cabot, as the most certain mode of making your ideas known to Judge Philips; who seemed desirous of being made acquainted with your determination respecting your sons, as soon as the nature of the case would admit.

Whether the information was conveyed in Judge Philipss. letter to Mr. Cabot (enclosed to you), or in an oral conversation between the latter and me, I am not now certain; but certain I am, that from one, or the other, I have understood that by the institution of the Andover Academy beyond a limited number of Students there cannot be any admitted. What this number is, I am not positive; but think the School is not to exceed Sixty

[53] Washington left Philadelphia April 14.

[54] Carrington's letter of April 24, declining the appointment, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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five. I think this, as there *may be* for I cannot say there *is*, a hazard of there not being an opening for more than your own Sons, as the enquiries were confined to them. But there is another Academy at a place called Hingham, about the same distance, but in a different direction from Boston that Andover is, which is well spoken of; and might, if a disappointment should be met with at the former, be a succedaneum. For mere consideration, these matters are brought to view.

I shall direct this letter to the *particular* care of the Postmaster in Fredericksburgh. It was not my intention to have put you to the expence of an Express from that place, to convey the last. I then thought, and still think, that a mail goes through Leeds; from whence a messenger would have cost little.

Enclosed I send you a few letters of introduction to some acquaintances of mine, both in Boston and New York.[56] I have not done this to the Governors thereof; but think it would be proper that you should pay *both*, the respect of calling upon them. To get introduced cannot be difficult with the letters that are enclosed. With affectionate regard I am etc.[57]

To GUSTAVUS SCOTT

Mount Vernon, April 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: I should not have taken the liberty of giving you the trouble wch. the enclosures must occasion but for the request of General Lee, who left this yesterday and is implicated in the business, to which they relate. Messrs. Read and Ford's[58] obligation, paid me by Genl. Lee,[59] to discharge, in part, a debt

[56] The only one of these letters of introduction which has come to the editor's attention is that to Alexander Hamilton under date of April 21, which is in the New York Public Library. A photostat of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[57] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[58] Of Philadelphia, Pa.

[59] Henry Lee.

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he owed me and the latter with Mr. Lingans note, (all of which are enclosed) will be sufficient, I presume to enable you to obtain the transfer promised by Messrs. Lingan and Smith[60] of 41 Shares;[61] but it may not be amiss notwithstanding to add that, as there seems to be delay, and difficulty on the part of Messrs. Read and Ford in a matter where, in my opinion, none ought to exist, it excites suspicion not very favorable for those Gentlemen, and makes me anxious to know what I have to depend upon especially as I requested them immediately after the 28th of March to fulfil their obligation, without ever having rec'd an acknowledgment of my letter, except in a verbal message (which I did not understand) through General Lee. I will not however add more on the subject at present than to beg the favor of hearing from you relative to the transfer of the 41 Shares. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.[62]

To TRISTRAM DALTON[63]

Mount Vernon, April 24, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 22d. instant.[64] Previous to the receipt of which, I had written to a Gentleman of this State (at a distance from hence) to know if he would accept the trust of being a Commissioner of the Federal City. No answer has yet been received.

Part of the District of Columbia being on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and the State having contributed towards the expense of the public buildings gives it an equitable pretention to furnish a Character therefrom. On this principle I have proceeded. With esteem etc.[65]

[60] Walter Smith, of Georgetown(?).
[61] Of the Bank of Columbia.
[62] From the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1910–11.
[63] Former Senator from Massachusetts.
[64] Now now found in the *Washington Papers*.
[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA[66]

Mount Vernon, April 24, 1795.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 20th, with its enclosures, came duly to hand. The dispute between the Commissioners and Mr. Johnson[67] having got into a course of legal adjudication,[68] it is unnecessary for me to express any sentiment thereon.

I regret that it could not have been settled without, because good rarely flow from disputes, evil often.

I expect to be in George town on my way to Philadelphia on Monday next, but at what hour I am unable, at this moment, to fix. With esteem I am etc.[69]

To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1795.

Sir: Our conversation of yesterday, has been the Subject of consideration with me. What follows is the result of it.

I repeat now, what I said to you then; viz, that renting the lands[70] does not in the first place promote my Views. And in the second the measure may eventually be liable to serious disadvantages; for which reason, it would be much more agreeable to me to alienate the property altogether; and this I would do to you, upon the same terms I offered Mr. Bailey,[71] namely £900 down, and £900 more on a credit to be agreed on, with

[66] Gustavus Scott and William Thornton.
[67] Thomas Johnson. He was a former Commissioner.
[68] Johnson's purchase of water lots north of K Street on Rock Creek had been ruled out by the Commissioners.
[69] From *Letters of the Presidents to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.
[70] On Difficult Run.
[71] Pearce Baylor (Bailey).

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interest regularly paid when it becomes due. in a manner also to be fixed.

If this is incompatable with your Views, and renting only will answer them, at least for a time, I will tho' reluctantly, agree to the following terms. namely, to receive £130 pr Ann; to cease on the payment of £2,000 in specie or current money equal thereto, at the time of payment which latter shall be done in ten years, from the date of the agreement: And not only the land, but unexceptionable personal Security shall be given for performance of the Annual payment and the sum of £2000 within the time above mentioned; And more over that if the Annual Sum of £130 shall not be paid within days after it becomes due it shall be optional in me to reenter, and take possession of the land, as if no agreement for it had ever taken place, And the full sum due thereon, arising from the afore mentioned rent to be paid not withstanding.

As there may appear something irreconcileable in these different propositions, an explanation, may be necessary; And thus I give it: £1800 one half or more to be paid *down* and the remainder in a short time, would enable me to apply the money to more profitable uses; than would result from the postponed payment. of £2000 at the end of ten years. And being assured by very good judges that I need not doubt getting five guineas an acre for it in a very little time (which at the U S. interest of 6 pr Ct. would amount to £126 pr Ann.) £130 yearly rent until the £2000 is paid, would hardly be an equivalent.

If you incline to take the Land on either of these proposals the bargain may be closed, and writings drawn. If neither is acceeded to now, I shall hold myself free at any time thereafter. I am etc.[72]

[72] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1795.

Dear Sir: The continual pressure of public business has allowed me so little time to look into matters of more private concern that the enclosed accts. have not yet been entered in my book of accts and the complicated nature of them resulting from the blended admininn. of the Estates of John and Thoms. Colvill, to a person not accustomed to such intricate statements has induced me to request that you would be so obliging as to number them in the order they ought to follow one another in my Ledger and I would thank you too for making out a summary or recapitulatory account from which it would appear in a simple and short view, how the balance between me, and the Estate of Ths. Colvill to which I was Executor stands, for I am at a loss to know what is due from me, and I find it is to no purpose to wait for a settlement of the affair of Sidney George as in appeare. it is no nearer accomplishmt now than it was 3 years ago.

I shall leave home this day, on my return to Philadelphia; and pray, as soon as you are able conveniently, to comply with the requests I have now made, that the Accts. may be forwarded to me by Post. With very great esteem etc.

Seven Accts. were sent to Mr. Keith [HV.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d. instant, I received yesterday morning. I still think of commencing my journey for Philada. at the time and in the manner mentioned to you in my last; but if bad weather or anything else should occur to prevent it, you

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shall be informed thereof in a P. S. to this letter before it is sent to the Post Office. The request of the Dutch Resident is embarrassing; and means more, I am persuaded, than is expressed.[73] For this reason, I would not only have all further acting upon it suspended 'till my return to the Seat of Government; but it is my desire moreover, that you and the Gentlemen who are usually consulted on these occasions, would give the subject the most serious consideration, and be prepared to submit your opinions thereon in writing to me, upon my arrival.

We have every reason (short of official testimony) to conclude, that the Government of the United Netherlands has undergone a revolution; to comply then, with the request of Mr. Van Berckel, might have an unpleasant [effect] both *here* and *elsewhere;* and not to do it, as no change has been announced, in diplomatic form, would, I conceive, be a departure from the usual and established course of proceeding in like cases. In a word, it seems to have placed the executive between Scilla and Charibdis. Much, however, I presume will depend upon the Consul's Commission, and the specific powers of the resident, if the right of suspension is not clearly established by usage, or the Law of Nations.

From our Minister in Holland, or from Mr. Monroe in Paris we surely may look every moment for official information of the events in that Country, the receipt of which might remove the present difficulty. I am &c.[74]

*To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Fedl. City, April 27, 1795.

I would thank you, my Dear Doctor, for your candid opinion of the writer of the enclosed letter.[75] I mean as to his credit, and

[73] Van Berckel had dismissed the Dutch consul, ——— Heinaken, and wanted the United States Government to send out official notification of this action.

[74] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[75] John Gill. His letter of Mar. 26, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers.*

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capability of fulfilling the terms which he therein accedes to, for my land on D: Run.[76]

He talks *largely* of making money; but that does not contribute *much* if *any thing* to establish him as a man of property, or credit in my estimn; whilst it may be apprehended if he is not a man of principle he might strip the land of the timber and wood, (being near the Iron works of Wilson & Potts at the Great falls) and then, should he prove insolvent and unable to pay the sum of £2000 within the term limited, leave me to re-enter upon naked premises as the only resource; as he does not propose to erect any buildings thereon.

Be so good as to let me hear from you by the first Post after this gets to your hands, and you are able either from your own knowledge, or the information of others to speak with a degree of precision to the point in question; return his letter to me. Any opinion you may give will go no further. I am always and sincerely Yours.[77]

*To JAMES MAURY[78]

George Town, April 28, 1795.

Sir: You will be informed by the enclosed letter that twenty five hogsheads of Tobo. shipped pr. the Alexandria Captain Bayne,[79] by Messrs Lear & Co, are to be placed to my credit.

The Tobacco is of my own growth, and the best evidence I can give you of my opinion of the quality of it, is, that after letting it lye five or six years in the Warehouse for a price, I prefered shipping it on my own acct. to the receipt of four

[76] Difficult Run.

[77] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Washington left Mount Vernon, April 26; was in Washington, D. C., April 26 and 27; Georgetown and Bladensburg, April 28; Baltimore, April 29. On Saturday, May 2, about noon, he arrived in Philadelphia, Pa.

[78] Of Liverpool, England.

[79] Capt. Henry Bayne, of the ship *Alexandria*.

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dollars P C at the Warehouse. It was reexamined at the time of shipment, and found to be, as I have been informed, in very good order.

If the price of this article should be low at the time you shall receive it, and there is a probability of its rising, I would have it kept for this purpose; as I am in no hurry for the proceeds. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To ALEXANDER WHITE

George Town, April 28, 1795.

Dear Sir: Mr. Carroll, one of the Commissioners of the Federal City, from age, and the infirm State of his health; is desirous of quitting the employment. Permit me to ask if it would be agreeable to you to supply his place? The present Salary is 1600 dollars per annum. To discharge the duties properly, a residence in the City and close attention to the multifarious duties which occur in the execution of the trust is necessary.

I shall not go more into detail until you signify your determination on this head, which I pray you to do as soon as convenient after the receipt of this letter as Mr. Carroll is anxious to retire. I am etc.[80]

To JOHN GILL

Philadelphia, May 4, 1795.

Sir: In every transaction of life I believe it will be found that candour and plain dealing (independent of the rectitude of

Washington wrote again, briefly, at the end of May, to Maury, requesting that as soon as the tobacco was disposed of, to send to him, "by the first American (neutral) vessel, bound to Potomac 500 Ells of the best Oznabrigs and 500 of the best second quality, for Negros; 150 of the best striped large blankets, 150 of the best second quality, for Negros. Make insurance thereon, and avoid hazarding them in any vessel whose Cargo or views may subject her to any legal interruption." A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

[80] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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the measure) is the best policy. Proceeding on this ground I will frankly own, that the reason why I requested other Security than the Land and your own bond for the performance of the Contract, which you were inclined to enter into, for my small tract on Difficult Run, arose from an expression which fell from you at Mount Vernon (according to my understanding of it) Viz, that you did not want the land with a View to improve it.

Hence, no advantages seeming to be contemplated from the mill seats, or meadow ground, (which in my estimation compose the most valuable part of the property) I could not conceive what the object of the purchase could be, unless to carry off the wood; the doing of which I well know would diminish the value of the land: and of course, if there should be any failure in the personal security, *that* I meet the land in a reduced state, would be my only resort.

If I have misconceived your meaning, that is, if your object in buying is to let the land lye dormant for the chance of a rise in its price; or if you meant contrary to my construction, (of your expression) to erect buildings thereon; to improve the grounds; I will on condition that none of the wood or coal made therefrom (both of which must be in demand at the Iron Works carrying on at the great falls) is removed from the land untill the principal Sum of two thousand pounds is paid. And moreover that as part thereof shall be left standing for the support of the premises untill payment as above, when you will be possessed of the fee Simple, and a legal right to do what you please with the Land; and every thing appertaining thereto. I say on these conditions I am still willing to let you have the land on the terms specified in my letter of the 26th Ulto. without deviation (on the score of boundary) which can effect

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the case very little, except waving the collateral Security there required, and fixing it on the Land and your own bond.

I pray you to be convinced that I do not mean to impute to you any unfair, or dishonorable, intention in this business; from the caution by which I have been governed.

I consider the proposed bargain as an absolute alienation of the property notwithstanding it has the appearance of a lease or freehold estate only, for the term of ten years; because, at any period within that term, I may be compelled upon payment of the principal sum of two thousand pounds, to transfer the legal title. But as misfortune in trade, or untoward accidents may render your bond of little worth, and my sole resort would in that case, be the recovery of the land; it behoves me to provide that this shall not during the ten years, be in a worse state than when I parted with it. this is the principle upon which I have acted. I am etc.[81]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, May 4, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I arrived in this city on Saturday at noon, about which time I recd. your letter of the 29th. ulto.

It gives me pleasure to hear that your grain and grass have benefitted by the late rain. As both are liable to great changes from the viscissitudes of weather, mention every week what the then appearance of the fields and meadows are; particular whether any grain is to be expected from the injured parts of the wheat fields, especially from those in No. 5 at Union farm, and whether the new sown grass in the Mill Meadow is coming on well.

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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Let the flour in the Mill be inspected; and all that will not, or with difficulty passes inspection be disposed of for the most you can get; I was going to add, keep that that is good, until you hear further from me; but as the quantity at *any rate* will be small you may as well let the *whole* go, and deposit the money in the Bank of Alex. If no danger was to be apprehended from keeping it on hand, I believe from the scarcity in Europe and great demand for this article, one might command their own price. I am etc.

P. S. I expected the fishery was nearly over when I left Mt. Vernon. [I intended, but forgot when I was at Mount Vernon, to measure the size of the picture frames in the parlour; which contains my picture Mrs. Washingtons and the two childn I wish you to do it, and send me the account in your next letter. Measure the frames (I believe they are all of a size) from out to out; and then on the inside, where they show the Canvas, or picture.][82]

To MARY GERMAIN HALLET

Philadelphia, May 5, 1795.

Madam: It is painful to me to receive the complaints of Mr. Hallet, through you. It is more so, as I see no propriety in my interfering in the differences between the Commissioners and him. The Commissioners are responsible to the public for conducting the public buildings, and other concerns of the Federal City. In the discharge of this trust, they must pursue such means as in their judgment, are most conducive to the end.

Why Mr. Hallet left the business in which he was employed by them; or why he was discontinued; is better known, perhaps, to you, than it is to me.

[82] The portion in brackets is not in the press copy, but is supplied from the text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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What assurances were given to Mr. Hallet to induce him to leave the business he was engaged in, at Philadelphia. What that business was; What money he has received for his services; and what further sum he is entitled to; are matters entirely unknown to me. All I can do therefore is, to transmit the representation you have made of his case, to the Commissioners, who are knowing of the facts; and can have no interest in withholding justice, where it is due. It is my sincere wish and desire, that it should be administered by them, to everyone; and I have confidence that, having the power, inclination will not be wanting to do so.

Having met your letter on the road, and without knowing by whose hand it was delivered, I did not examine the contents until I had reached my evening's Stage; nor have I had leizure or opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of it until now. I wish you and Mr. Hallet both, well, and am etc.

P. S. Your letter without date, but evidently written after those, the receipt of which I have already acknowledged, came to my hands since my arrival at this place; and is transmitted with the others to the Commissioners.[88]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, May 5, 1795.

Gentlemen: The papers herewith enclosed (except one) were put into my hands whilst I was on horseback, passing through the city on my journey. I did not then read them, or know from whom they came.

Enclosed is my answer; which, after reading, be so good as to Seal and cause it to be delivered. As it discloses my sentiments respecting the representation of Mr. Hallet, through his

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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Wife, I shall not repeat them; further than to assure you of my confidence that you will do strict justice to his memorial and claims as far as they merit. With esteem, etc.[84]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, May [8?][85] 1795.

Sir: I have given the correspondence between you and Mr. Van Berckel, respecting the suspension of the Dutch Consul Heeinaken and the request to have his exequatur withdrawn, due consideration.

The papers are returned with a repetition of my desire, expressed to you yesterday, that the proper authorities may be consulted to know how far the usage and practice of Nations, give controul to ministers in foreign countries, over the consuls of their respective nations; particularly of the power of suspending them in the execution of their functions. On this ground, or on specific authority from the Government of his nation, the resident must have acted, or he has acted without any. After examining into the *first;* and then the *second,* if the first does not support the proceeding, I shall be better prepared to form my opinion of the measure, than I am at present. In the mean time I request that the Attorney General's opinion may be obtained on the case as stated, laying this letter also before him. I am &c.[84]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, May 10, 1795.

Your letter of the 3d. instt, with the Reports of the preceeding week, was received yesterday; and I am glad to find by it

[84] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[85] This letter is undated in the "Letter Book," but is recorded between the dates of May 7 and May 13.

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that the Wheat and grass continues to mend. I hope the warm days we have had, and the showers of rain (if they have extended to you) have also brought on the Oats. It is high time they were advancing, if much is to be expected from them.

Considering the quality of my flour this year, and the smalness of the quantity, I am very well satisfied that you have got it off your hands at the prices it sold; altho' flour at this market is at 12 dollars a barrel and rising. In short, the scarcity of this article in Europe, and demand for it; added, to the failure of the last wheat crop in this Country will enable the holders to get any price they please. Let me know the quantity of Midlings and Ship-stuff you disposed of. And tell Davenport to make out, and to have sent to me, the Mill acct. for last year, that I may see what Wheat has gone into, and what flour has come out of, the Mill. I have no reason to suspect that Davenport is otherwise than an honest man; but regular and fair accts. should be stated, and rendered by all Men. In doing this with him, the Overseers accts. of the Wheat sent to, and his of what is received in the Mill, should agree; so likewise ought his charges of the flour, Bran &ca. sent to Mansion house, the Overseers, &ca. to agree with what is reported and credited. This being done, and added to the different kinds of flour that are sold, and the shorts and Bran used, will (accounting also for the Toll Wheat) show the state of the Manufacturing business which is not only satisfactory, but absolutely necessary; for I strongly suspect, notwithstanding it would appear by the experimts. which have been made of an hundred bushels that the balance is in favor of flour, that the case is otherwise on the aggregate quantity which is ground. That it is so this year, can admit of no doubt; it would be inconceivable otherwise that the [ ][86] of my last years crop of Wheat, and [ ][86] that of

[86] Mutilated.

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the year before, should yield only [ ][87] barrls. of flour, besides what was consumed in the family.

If the boy at the Mill is to go into the Garden, at Mansion house, the sooner it happens the better; and I really (considering the little work my Mill does) see no reason why he should not. I am sorry to find by your last reports that there has been two deaths in the family since I left Mount Vernon; and one of them a young fellow. I hope every necessary care and attention was afforded him. I expect little of this from McKoy, or indeed from most of his class; for they seem to consider a Negro much in the same light as they do the brute beasts, on the farms; and often times treat them as inhumanly.

If I recollect rightly, it appears in some of the weekly reports, that Posts and rails were getting at Dogue-run to inclose the Barn yard at that place. I forgot when I was at home, and on the spot with you, to fix on the manner of doing it. I once pointed out my plans to Green and Davis, and I think to McKoy, but little attention seems to have been paid to these things afterwards by either of them. To the best of my recollection, it was intended to run, from each end of the sheds, a Post and rail to the railing leading into the Barn, or treading floor of it, for the stable yard; on one side of which to have a gate, through which to pass into the yard which incloses the Barn on the other sides and into No. 5 also; then back of the two sheds at sufficient distances therefrom allowing full room to receive the litter, dung, &ca. from the Stables, to run Post and Rail fences from the lane South of the Barn, to the fence of No 5, which is back of the lots. Fences run straight, in the manner here described, and at sufficient distances from the back parts of the sheds or stables, would afford ample room for the grain in stacks; and I believe it would be sufficiently capacious also for cow yards, but it would have a bad exposure; and besides, is in

[87] Mutilated.

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low ground; therefore a yard, or yards for this purpose (cattle and Sheep) might adjoin (one on each side the Stable yard) the Lane between No 3 and the lots and the Stable yard fences; as will appear more distinctly in the sketch enclosed.[88]

The number of Bricks which will be required for the Barn in the Neck (River farm) will fall very little short of 140,000 of those that are sound and good, as you will see by the calculation herewith. And that no other than hard [ ][89] bricks may be put into the Walls, letting it as soon as it is burnt, and cool, be immediately taken down and the[90]

*CALCULATION OF THE NUMBER OF BRICKS WANTING FOR THE BARN AT RIVER FARM

From the foundation (which ought to be below the penetration of frost) to the Sleepers, suppose 3 feet; this of a 2½ brick wall, would require abt 30 bricks to the foot, and the 2 sides and 2 ends making together 180 feet running measure, will take	16,200
From the Sleepers, or water table, to the top of the wall, 16 feet high, and 2 brick thick, will require at the rate of 24 to foot	69,120
The two inner walls of the sheds from the barn (intended for Stables) being 30 feet each, and 2 brick thick to the water table, of the Barn, say 3 feet high, requires	4,320
From hence to the top of the wall 16 feet, a brick and half thick, Twice 30 feet	17,280

[88] This sketch is not now found in the *Washington Papers*. A redrawing of it is reproduced in Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4, p. 281).

[89] Mutilated.

[90] From M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, where it is noted that the remainder of the letter is missing.

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Two outer walls of do. 60 feet long each and 1½ brick thick; and in and out of the grd. 10 feet high, will require	21,600
The 4 ends of the sheds 12 feet each makes 48 feet the medium height of wch. will be about 15 feet and these of a brick and half will need	11,460
Total.....	139,980

To DANIEL CARROLL

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th. instant, was received by yesterday's Post.

In answer to the enquiry therein, the following, as nearly as I can recollect, is the result of all that passed between Messrs. Scott and Thornton and myself, respecting their dispute with Mr. Johnson.

After the conversation which I had with the latter (in the presence of yourself and Doctr. Stuart the day I proceeded to Mount Vernon) and hearing his Statement, and the written elucidation of the principles on which he meant to establish his claim; I expressed to Doctr. Thornton, whom I saw soon after, my regret that so unfortunate a dispute should have happened, and a wish that it might be amicably settled. He, any more than Mr. Johnson, seemed to think this could not be accomplished, as the Commisisoners (or whether he confined it more particularly to Mr. Scott and himself, I am not certain) were clearly of opinion, and had been so advised by professional men, that the lots upon Rock Creek would, undoubtedly, be considered as Water lots under Greenleaf's contract; and being so considered and of greater value, it followed as a consequence, that they, as trustees of public property, in the City,

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could not yield to a claim which would establish a principle injurious to that property. He added that they had taken pains to investigate this right, and was possessed of a statement thereof which he or they (I am not sure which) wished me to look at.

Having heard Mr. Johnson's statement and reasoning upon the case, I did not decline the perusal of this; but it was observed by the Doctor,[91] that there were some papers not quite ready, but which should be sent so soon as they could be prepared. Accordingly, after I had been at Mount Vernon two or three days, I received a Packet from Messrs. Scott and Thornton containing Greenleaf's contract (or a copy of it) the interrogatories, and answers to which your letter alludes; and some other papers, the purport of which I do not recollect; as, from the letters which were pouring in upon me whilst I was at home, I could only afford them a hasty reading; and all have been returned, with a repetition of my regret that such a dispute should have arisen; and a declaration, that as it had got into a course of legal adjudication it might be as improper as it was unnecessary, for me to express any opinion upon the merits of the case.

Thus, I have not only given an answer to the simple question propounded respecting the Interrogatories of the Clerk, but I have related, to the best of my recollection, *all* that passed between the other two Commissioners and myself, when you were not present, relative to this dispute. With esteem etc.

P. S. The evening of the day I parted with you I wrote to Mr. Alexr. White made him an offer of the place you have requested to resign; which he has accepted. I hope it will not be inconvenient to you under this information, to continue to

[91] Dr. William Thornton.

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discharge the duties of Commissioner until his arrival at the Federal City.[92]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: About the sum which is due to me from your house, I owe the Commissioners of the Federal City. Let me request you therefore to ascertain, pay, and transmit the account thereof to me. If in doing this the balance shall be against me; it shall be paid to your order, if in my favor, let it remain there 'till called for. I am etc.[92]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 5th. instant[93] has been duly received. That the duties of a Commissioner of the Federal City would have been discharged with ability and fidelity by the Gentleman whose name you have mentioned to me, I cannot harbour a doubt; but the An——l Gab——l, in this situation would have been charged with partiality. From a thorough conviction of this, I have never turned my attention to a character who, at the time of his appointment; was a resident either in George Town, or the Federal City.

The evening of the day I parted with you last, wrote to a gentleman of Virginia[94] (from whence as part of the district of Columbia lyes in it and the State has contributed to the expence of the public buildings, I was inclined to look for the suc-

[92] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[93] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[94] Alexander White. (See Washington's letter to Alexander White, Apr. 28, 1795, *ante.*)

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cessor of Mr. Carroll) and have received his letter of acceptance of the Office of Commissioner.[95] With esteem etc.[96]

*To CHARLES LEE

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: Mr. Gill (of Alexandria) and I, have been in treaty sometime for a small tract of land which I hold in Loudoun county on Difficult run, at the bridge on the Leesburgh road. If he will agree to the following terms, from the *spirit* of which there will be no departure, such writings as will subserve both of our purposes, I pray you to draw.

1st. For him to hold the land by lease for the term of ten years, to commence from the date of the instrument; for the use and occupation of which, he is to pay in coin of the United States, or other money current at the time, and equivalent thereto, four hundred and thirty three dollars and a third yearly, and every year during the continuance of the said lease, at the Bank of Alexandria; for which a check is to be given.

2d. If any part of the said sum of 433⅓ shall be behind, or unpaid in manner aforesd, thirty days after the same shall become due, it shall and may be lawful (and optional in for me to re-enter and take possession of the premises as if no such lease had ever been granted. And if property should not be found thereon adequate to the rent, recourse in the ordinary mode, may be resorted for recovery of the same.

3d. That not a timber tree, stick of wood, coal made therefrom, or Ore, if any be on the land, shall be removed therefrom,

[95] His letter of acceptance is not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[96] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On May 17 Washington wrote to William Augustine Washington, inclosing that which "may serve to remove some doubts." A photostat copy of this is in the *Washington Papers,* through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City. Across the address sheet of the original William Augustine Washington has written "enclosing Cabots letter."

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under any pretence whatsoever; or used otherwise than for the purposes of the premises.

4th. That for the support and benefit of the same, there shall be left standing on the said tract, at the expiration of the lease a fourth part, at least, of the wood.

5th. It is understood and agreed, and the parties accordingly are to bind themselves as follow—viz: John Gill, his heirs &ca. to pay to George Washington his heirs &ca. *on* or at *any time* before, the expiration of the aforementioned term of ten years, the sum of Six thousand, six hundred and Sixty six dollars, and two thirds of a dollar, in the manner before mentioned; and for surety thereof, is to give his own bond with sufficient penalty. In consideration of which payment, well and truly performed, George Washington, or his heirs &ca. is to convey, in fee simple, the aforesaid tract; and the rent thence forward is to cease, and determine.

6th. Whereas by Deeds of lease and release from the Revd. Mr. Fairfax to me, the stream of difficult run is made the boundary between the land thus conveyed, and land conveyed by Deed from to on the other, or lower side of the run, and whereas by the last mentioned deed, a *straight* line is called for as the boundary between the two tracts, which may, according to circumstances, occasion a diminution in the quantity of my land; now it is understood and agreed, (be this as it may) that no alteration, consequent thereof, is to take place in the rent, or in the purchase money of this tract: for by the *tract,* and not by the acre, I sell it. The Deeds from Mr. Fairfax to me, specifies two hundred and seventy five acres *only*; but by a resurvey, if I recollect rightly, it measures three hundred and three acres; but I mean to give no other warrantee than I have received of it; and from this, to except what might be

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involved in dispute by the different lines; and so I would have it expressed, in order to avoid a controversy hereafter.

With great esteem etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

*To GUSTAVUS SCOTT

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 11th. instt. I thank you for bringing the negotiation with Mr. Peters[97] to a close, and for effectuating the transfer of the remaining lots in Square No 21 to me agreeably thereto. Mr. Lear will make the first payment therefor, according to contract.

I am much obliged by your kind enquiry into the value of the land I hold on Difficult run, although the communication respecting it has come too late, if a gentleman to whom I had made an offer of it acceeds to my terms. Your offer to assist me in the disposal of this land was friendly, and I feel greatful for it. With Esteem etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

*To JOHN GILL

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 8th. instt., and if writings drawn *strictly* conformably to the *spirit* of the instructions contained in the inclosed letter to Charles Lee Esqr. (left open for your perusal) will answer your views in the purchase of my land on Difficult run, they may be prepared by him, and sent to me for the signature on my part. If, on the other hand, adhering as strictly as I do, to the principle on which I set out, does not meet your approbation, be so good as to return the

[97] Thomas Peter (Peters).

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letter and deeds therein; and the receipt of them will not be less acceptable than the first named writings.

You will perceive by these instructions, that not a stick of timber, wood, Coal or Ore (if any should be on the land) is to be removed therefrom, until the purchase money is paid. This may be interpreted (at first view) a rigid clause; in as much as the ground which may be cleared, and the timber which may be cut for fencing and other purposes, might afford more fire wood, than the immediate demand of the farm might require; this may be true, but it does not follow that it will be lost, if corded. To husband it therefore (while I retain an interest in the land); to avoid all inducement to fell it, faster than the farm may require; and to avoid all ground for dispute; In a word, not to lessen the value of the property until it is actually gone from me, are my motives to this precaution; especially as the removal from off the land, of a timber tree or two, or a few cords of wood, might give rise to a magnified tale which might induce investigation, and be productive of unpleasant sensations: to avoid which is more desirable than to apply a remedy. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ALEXANDER WHITE

(Private)

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. instt. came to hand by the Post of yesterday.

With pleasure I received your acceptance of the office of Commissioner of the federal city. The commission[98] will be forwarded to you from the Department of State, and the sooner

[98] White's commission was signed May 18.

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you can enter upon the duties of the trust, the more convenient and agreeable it will be.

With the candor, which I am sure will be agreeable to you, I shall intimate (for reasons which I shall not at this time enumerate, but which will appear evident, after you have been there a while) that a residence in the city, if a house is to be had, will be more promotive of its welfare than your abode in George Town. I shall add, that the motives which induced a fixed salary (which the first Commissioners did not receive) were, that they should reside on the spot; that they were not only to plan and regulate the affairs of the city, but to look to the execution of them also; To accomplish which, with the greatest ease to themselves, and best advantage to the public, I presumed that after measures were decided on by the *Board* they would have been so arranged as that each member would have attended to the execution of a particular part; or if found more convenient, that in rotation, each would have superintended the whole. I could not perceive however, when I was in the city last (the only time since the change in the Board) that any such arrangement had been adopted. In short, the only difference I cou'd perceive between the proceedings of the old, and the new Commissionrs. resulted from the following comparison. The old met not oftener than once a month, except on particular occasions; the new meet once or twice a week. In the interval, the old resided at their houses in the country; the new resided at their houses in George Town. The old had too much of the business done by daily wages, and were *obliged* to trust to overseers and superintendants to look to the execution; the new have gone more into the execution of it by contracts, and piece work, but rely equally, I fear, on others to see to the performance. These changes (tho' for the better) by no means apply a radical cure to the evils that were complained of, nor

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will they justify the difference of compensation from six dollars pr. diem for every days attendance in the *city* and Sixteen hundred pr. annum.

My time will not permit me to go more into detail on this subject, nor is it necessary; your own good judgment will supply all, and more than I could add.

The year 1800 will be soon upon us: The necessity therefore of hurrying on the public buildings, and other works of a public nature; and executing of them with œconomy: The propriety of preventing idleness in those who have day, or monthly wages, and imposition by others, who work by measure, by the piece, or by contract, and seeing that all contracts are fulfilled, with good faith, are too obvious to be dwelt on. and are not less important than to form plans, and establish rules for conducting, and bringing to a speedy and happy conclusion this great, and arduous business. I am &c. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, May 24, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have duly received your letter, and the reports of the 17th. instant.

The enclosed sketches, will give my ideas so fully, of the Barn, proposed to be built at River farm, as to leave me scarcely anything to add to it. If 2 Inch (white oak) plank, is thought sufficient for the threshing floor of the Barn, I do not want it to be got any thicker; and if Inch and quarter (Pine) plank, is thick enough for the lower floor of the graineries, I do not wish it to be more. Inch Plank is fully adequate to the floors over them, to support the grain in the straw.

I mention these things now, that the Oak plank may be sawed as soon as you are able to do it, that there may be time for it to season; and that the Pine plank may be got without

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delay, not only for the same purpose, but for security of the Bricks also, before they are burned. Of the oak plank, it will require for the threshing floor, 30 feet square, 900 feet when laid; allowance for waste must be made. For the lower floor of the graineries, the like quantity of 1¼ (if that is the thickness resolved on) with the like allowance for waste, will be required. and for the upper floor of the graineries precisely the same. But as the pine plank will waste more than the oak; is more liable to be stolen, and besides will sustain injury in the Brick yard; and moreover may be wanting for a variety of uses in the building; you had better lay in 1500 or two thousand feet of each sort, at once. And I would have you enquire of those (who deal in that way) on what terms they would deliver at one of my landings, shingles of the following dimensions, viz, 3 feet, 2 feet, and 18 Inches; specifying the width, and thickness of each, they will warrant them to average. When you furnish me with this account I shall be better able to decide on the kind of covering to bestow on the building, and the sort, and number of nails it will require. Of the last, I find they can be had in this city on better terms than in Alexandria; and of course will be sent from hence.

The body of the Barn (as you always understood, independant of the sheds) is to be 60 feet long, and 30 feet wide. I have allowed 12 feet sheds only, which I conceive is sufficient, as the Racks and Mangers will be close to the wall (and not as those are at Union farm), and in case I should not think of it at the time they are about, let the latter be dug out of the solid wood. Such will last as long as the wood itself does, whilst those made of plank, however thick, are soon coming a sunder; wasting the grain; and requiring repairs.

What sort of Clay is found where you are making bricks? Desire Mr. Stuart to keep a regular acct. of the number that are

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made, or (as has been the case before), hundreds will be magnified into thousands; and deception follow of course. It is highly necessary too, that he should have an eye to the tempering, and beating the clay well before it is moulded; for on this the goodness of the bricks depend; especially as it was not exposed to the frosts of last winter.

I think as you do, that the *Oak* plank, and *all* the scantling, ought to be got from off my own land; but this is not to withhold the Carpenters, or any others, from the Harvest field, when their services are required there. In time, be laying shells in, or you will meet with disappointment. Did you ever enquire particularly into the character of the carpenter who built Mrs. Peak's Barn? If so, what was the result?

I find I was mistaken, respecting Posts and Rails for the farm yard at Dogue-run. The sketch of one, sent you in a former letter, may be preserved notwithstanding, it will serve when they are provided.

If you have transplanted any of the Honey locust plants (in the manner before directed) and find they succeed, continue the practice as long as the season will allow it. I sent a book for your perusal between this and my next visit to Mount Vernon, which contains many useful experiments, and observations on Hedging &ca. At that time it may be returned to me after information is got from it. This book is written by a man of established character, of course, except what may proceed from difference of climate is to be depended upon, and followed by us.

A bundle of Pekan, or Illinois nuts is also sent; which desire the gardener to plant along with those I sent him some time ago. These are fresh, and I have no doubt will come up. Enclosed likewise, is the copy of a list of Plants which were sent by a Gentlemen of Jamaica to Norfolk, for me. If they should

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have been forwarded to Mount Vernon desire Elher to pay particular attention to them.

Let Doctr. Craik, if he has not already done it, examine the case of Cooper Jack and prescribe the needful for him. No report of Carpenters work was among the enclosures of your last letter. I am etc.

*To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, May 24, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have received lately, a letter from a member of the Assembly of trustees for the Botanical Garden in Jamaica enclosing a list of plants which had been sent me from thence on a vessel [illegible]. Having mislaid or destroyed [illegible] name of the vessel by which they were sent; but [illegible] of them; 39 plants of different sorts, curious and valuable. [Illegible.] Mount Vernon; [illegible] that the Master if possible, to land them as he passes it.[99] With esteem etc.

*To FAIRLIE CHRISTIE

Philadelphia, May 25, 1795.

Sir: With much sensibility I received your polite letter of the 25th. of March from Kingston.[1]

I thank you, Sir, for the plants which are mentioned in the list which accompanied it. Presuming they are arrived at Norfolk with the letter, I have requested a Gentleman of my acquaintance at that place, to forward them to my Garden at Mount Vernon on Potomack River, near Alexandria Virginia; and I feel myself particularly obliged by the offer to supply me with other plants from the Botanical gardens in Jamaica.

[99] On September 29 Newton wrote from Norfolk that the vessel from Jamaica on which the plants were shipped had been lost.

[1] In the *Washington Papers*, accompanied by a list of the plants sent.

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When my situation will allow me to pay more attention than I am able to do at present, to cultivations of this kind, which combine utility, ornament and amusement, I shall certainly avail myself of the liberty you have authorised me to take, in requesting a small supply of such exotics, as, with a little aid, may be reconciled to the climate of my garden. In the meantime, I will cause enquiry to be made for the plants which are required for your garden at Liquania; agreeably to the list of Mr. Wiles.[2] I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, May 25, 1795.

My Dear Sir: In due course of the Posts, I have been favored with your letters of the 17th instt. from Baltimore, and 20th from George Town. and thank you for the information contained in both.

Enclosed I send you what money I had by me, of my private funds; and an order, on the Bank of Alexandria for all I have there; both of which sums, I pray you to lay out in the purchase of Stock in that Bank; or, the Bank of Columbia; or on both; as from circumstances and the information you may possess at the moment you shall deem most advisable and advantageous.

The sum enclosed is nine hundred and Sixty Dollars in Notes of the U: States Bank.[3] The sum in the Bank of Alexandria, amounts according to the information given me by

[2] James Wiles, of the Botanical Garden, Liquanea, Jamaica.

[3] These notes are listed by Washington at the end of this letter as follows:

Bank Notes			Dolls.
5	of	100 dolls. each	500
2	of	50	100
18	of	10	180
36	of	5	180
			960

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Mr. Pearce to $3430 – 63 cts.; but be it more, or less, the order embraces it. With very sincere esteem etc.[4]

CERTIFICATE

Philadelphia, May 28, 1795.

Whereas John Dandridge Esquire of new Kent County, Virginia has made known to me that he can advantageously dispose of a young negro man called Anderson belonging to me and now in possession of said Dandridge, I hereby give my approbation to, and ratify any sale which he the said Dandridge may think proper to make on my behalf of said negro Anderson.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, May 31, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I am quite surprized to find by your letter of the 24th. instant (which with the Reports came duly to hand) that your crops had stood in need of Rain. There has been no three days together without it, at this place, since I arrived here; and some times for whole days and nights, with little or no intermission.

The exhausted state of Provisions (bread) in Europe; the demand for flour there; and the bad prospect for grain where most of it was usually grown, leaves not a doubt but that every thing of the bread kind, or substitutes for it, will bear a high price in autumn. Sometime ago I recommended it to you to

[4] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 25 Washington wrote also to the president and directors of the Bank of Alexandria, requesting them to pay to Lear the above balance of $3,430.67. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

Lear replied (May 29), reporting the purchase of 5 shares in the Bank of Alexandria, at par. He intended to try to get 5 more and invest the balance of the amount $2,390.67 in shares of the Bank of Columbia. A later account with Lear (June 3) shows the purchase of 100 Bank of Columbia shares at $40. a share. This letter and account are in the *Washington Papers*.

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plant a good many Potatoes, this I repeat, and wish also that you wd. lay yourself out for more Buckwheat than usual, for a crop. I have heard much of the white (homony) Bean as being very productive, and a ready sale: suppose you were to devote an Acre of Corn ground to this purpose, to see what the yield would be: or, if they would do without something to run upon, and support them, to plant an acre or two without Corn, in No 6 at Union farm; by the side of the Corn you cultivate in that field.

Cut the forward wheat in good season, and save all for Seed. Doctr Stuart thinks it more subject to weavil than the common wheat; If so, you will judge whether it can best be preserved from them in stacks or otherwise, and do with it as shall seem best to you.

How does the honey locust stand transplanting? If well, follow it up as long as the season will answer. The Gardener does not, I perceive, take any notice of the boy in his report. this he ought to do.

Has no remedy been discovered for the disorder in horses? If I should loose my Plough horses, or even have them rendered unfit for work, it will be unfortunate. I am etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, June 4, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letters of 26th. and 29th Ulto. have been duly received, but not adverting in time that the Post retd. on Wednesday I omitted answering the latter on that day.

I pray you to continue your purchases of shares in either of the Banks of Alexandria or Columbia or both (as you shall deem best) so far as the appropriated sums in your hands, belonging to me, (to which, add the three thousand dollars which

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you received from Doctr. Stuart on my account) will go. In doing this let the call for ten dollars on each share purchased in the Bank of Columbia, be included, because, until I receive payment for some land which I have sold, or the cash for my flour, &ca., which is not yet due I shall not have it in my power to apply a further sum to this use.

It gives me much pleasure to hear that the public buildings are going on briskly, and that persons from the Southward (for I believe it is the first instance beyond a single lot or so) are becoming adventurers with a view to improvement, in the federal city. I am clearly in sentiment with you (and the Commissioners know it) that if the business can proceed without *limping* that the lots which belong to the public ought to be held up except single ones, or a square at *most* and those only to be disposed of on the express condition of improvement.

The Senators are beginning to assemble. By Monday (the day appointed for their meeting) it is presumed they will all be here, as some of the most distant, are already on the ground.[5] The members of this family are all well, and join in best wishes for you, with Dear Sir Your etc.

*To JAMES MONROE

Philadelphia, June 5, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have to thank you for the information, contained in your private letter to me, of the 19th. of last November.

The regular, and detailed accounts which you receive from the department of State, of occurrences, as they arise with us leave nothing to be added. As a private concern, I shall take the liberty of troubling you with the enclosed; requesting that it may be presented, or forwarded, as the case may be, to Madame la Fayette. The papers are under a flying seal, that seeing

[5] The Senate convened June 8 and adjourned June 26.

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the scope and design of them, you may (if the money therein mentioned should not have reached her hands, of which I have received no information) be enabled to assist her in obtaining it; the favor of doing which I beg you, to render us both. My best respects are presented to Mrs. Monroe. With esteem etc.

*To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, June 5, 1795.

Madam: Neither your situation or mine, will render it advisable for me to add more to the enclosed letter, which was written agreeably to its date, and received by Mr. Van Staphorst (as will appear by the correspondence between us, which is also enclosed) than to assure you of the sincere pleasure I felt in learning from Mr. Monroe's letters to the Secretary of State, that you were in Paris and at liberty, after a long and painful confinement; particularly, as he accompanied it with the pleasing information, that in behalf of this country and conformably to the dictates of his own sensibility, he had aided you with means to supply your present exigencies.

To touch on the case of Mr. de la Fayette in this letter would be still more delicate, and under present circumstances, as unavailing as it would be inexpedient. For these reasons, I shall only add a renewal of the assurances of the sincerest esteem and regard for you, and yours, with which I have the honor etc.[6]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, June 7, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 31st of last month, enclosing the weekly reports, came duly to hand, yesterday.

Let the person who is to supply you with plank and Shingles, have the precise length of the first given to him, that it may not

[6] From the *Monroe Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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waste in cutting. This length you will be able to ascertain from knowing the uses for which it is intended; and by consulting the plan which I sent you. The plank for the lower floor of the Granneries, as I mentioned at first, ought, I have no doubt, to be of Inch and half stuff; and if the floors above them, were of Inch and quarter pine, they would not be the worse for it. Care too shd. be taken that the shingles are of the dimensions (both in length, and the average width) that is agreed for; nothing being more common of late than to contract for 18 inch shingles, and give those of not more than 16 inches, and in that proportion with respect to the two, and three feet shingles: which is an unjustifiable imposition, as more nails, as well as more shingles, are consequently required.

Are the Cabbins at River and Union farms all removed, as were intended? I ask because I have seen work of this sort reported, but know not if it be compleated.

I wish you could find out the thief who robbed the Meat house at Mount Vernon, and bring him to punishment. And at the sametime secure the house against future attempts; for our drafts upon it will be pretty large, I expect, when we come home; wch. probably may be about the middle or 20th. of next month. Nathan has been suspected, if not detected, in an attempt of this sort formerly; and is as likely as any one to be guilty of it now. Postilion Joe has been caught in similar practices; and Sam, I am sure would not be restrain[ed] by any qualms of conscience, if he saw an opening to do the like. I am etc.

To THE SENATE

United States, June 8, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate: In pursuance of my nomination of John Jay, as Envoy Extraordinary to his britannic majesty, on the 16 day of April 1794, and of the advice and consent of the

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Senate thereto on the 19th, a negotiation was opened in London. On the 7 of March 1795, the treaty resulting therefrom, was delivered to the Secrey. of State. I now transmit to the Senate that treaty, and other documents connected with it. They will therefore in their wisdom decide, whether they will advise and consent that the said treaty be made between the United States and his britannic majesty.[7]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, June 14, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 7th. instant, and the weekly reports, were received yesterday. On wednesday night, thursday, and part of friday, we had a great deal of rain in this city, and as it appeared to be general, I hope you partook of it. If the Corn is not destroyed by the insect you complain of, I do not despair (on account of its backwardness) of making a good crop, yet. It is in the months of July and August that this crop is to be made, or marred, by seasonable, or unseasonable weather.

It is fortunate that the distemper among the horses have ceased [that you may keep it clean and in ordr. for Wheat][8] it would have been a heavy stroke, if they had been rendered unfit for use at this busy season of the year, even if they had not died with it.

Are you selling Hay in Alexandria, that for several weeks passed I perceive the Waggon has been employed in transporting it thither? If so, what do you get for it? and how much will you, or have you, disposed of.

[7] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] The phrase, enclosed in brackets, has been written in by Washington after the press copy was made. It evidently belongs to another letter than the one on which it is inscribed.

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Let Mr. Halley know that I am not inclined to reduce my lot in Alexandria without first viewing the part he wants for an allay; and comparing the advantages, and disadvantages together; then, if no inconvenience will result to me, and the price to be given, is adequate to the *real* value, according to a judgment from circumstances; I may, though I do not chuse to be under any engagement, suffer ten feet to be taken off for the purpose designated in your letter, viz, an allay.

Enclosed I send you a Newspaper containing some ideas on the culture of Potatoes; on the different kinds; and on the manner of Making them into bread. It comes from the best board of Agriculture in England, and may be worth attending to. I am etc.

P. S. By the last Post, I received the enclosed letter from James Butler; I wish you to let him know (and as soon as you conveniently can, that he may be under no mistake in the case) that he must look to those who placed him where he is, (if they think him qualified for the Office,) for his money; not a copper will he receive from me. I allow £50 pr. Annum to the Academy in Alexandria for the purpose of instructing the children of poor persons who are unable to be at that expence themselves; but I have nothing to do with providing, or paying the Master who is employed for this purpose. This is left to the Trustees of the School, and I wish it may be found that my donation is as benificially applied as my intention in bestowing of it, has been good. Whether the Revd. Mr. Muir (to whom the money has usually been paid) has any *particular* agency in the business, or not, I am unable to say; but wish you to shew him Butlers letter on this subject and let me know what he says to[9] it. Yours.

[9]The M. D. Conway text in *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4), has "the application."

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To ALEXANDER WHITE

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: After an unqualified acceptance of the Office of Commissioner of the Federal City, and a lapse of time at an important season for business, it would be uncandid not to say that I feel pain at your hesitating now, to enter upon the duties of that Office.

I had not heard before the receipt of your letter, that you had resumed the practice of the law; nor did I suppose that you could, with your family, transplant yourself in a moment to the Federal city; although I wished it might happen at as early a period as you could make it convenient, foreseeing advantages which would result from the measure.

The proposition was not made to you under an idea that you were skilled in the principles of Architecture, or because I supposed you had any particular knowledge of work, or the quantum to be exacted from workmen. The first is varying continually, according to the demand for, or the exorbitance of, the people: and care only is necessary when the latter is executed by contract, or the piece, to prevent, as much as the nature of the case will admit, imposition; and when day wages are given (which in all practicable cases ought to be avoided) to have an eye that the overlookers of them are diligent.

For these, I have no doubt your judgment, inclination and industry are quite adequate. In all other respects, I am equally persuaded, you are well qualified to discharge the duties of Commissioner; and it would give me, and I think I may add the public also, entire satisfaction if you could make it convenient and agreeable to yourself, to devolve your time and attention to this business.

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Unless this is done, I should not feel myself justified in the change of compensation to the Commissioners, from six dollars a day while they were in Session to sixteen hundred dollars per annum. That change being the result of conviction, that as the city progressed, nothing short of constant attendance (allowing for those occasional absences which every person in the discharge of public trust require, at times) would enable the Commissioners, to answer the end of their appointment. Therefore the above sum, which was conceived adequate to this service, was resolved to be given. With esteem etc.[10]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, June 15, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 3d. and 4th inst. in the date of the latter I presume there is a mistake, with several accounts enclosed in the first, have been duly received; as was the certificate of the Shares which were bought in the Banks of Alexandria and Columbia on my behalf. Your preference of the former for the appropriation of the balance which remains in your hands is accordant with my Ideas; and unless you have very good reasons to believe that the shares may be had at par by delaying the purchase of them, it might be as well perhaps, to buy at the prices now being (especially if the overplus will meet compensation in the dividends) as to await for a fall.

Being pressed I shall only add the good wishes of this family to my own, and assure you of the sincere esteem etc.[10]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, June 21, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 14th instant with the Reports were received yesterday.

[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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I am sorry the rain you were wishing for, should have come attended with the disasters your letter represents; but to these it is our duty to submit. I never repine at acts of Providence, because I always suppose, however adverse they may be to our wishes, they are always for the best. Let the place of the young mule, that was killed, be supplied in the best manner the stock of them will afford.

I hope the shells you engaged were of what they call live shells. Those from the bank, if not well cleansed, are so mixed with dirt as to make very weak lime. As to the price, I do not expect to get them for less than others give. Of course they must be landed at the Mansion house on acct. of burning them (to the best advantage, and with the least waste) in the Kiln made for this purpose.

I think it would be proper to fill in, between the logs of the Cabbins, as soon, and as fast as circumstances will admit; that the clay may get dry before cool weather approaches. Damp walls, are very apt to give Rheumatic complaints. This filling may be done as well before, as after the Cabbins are covered.

I hope your crop of Wheat, as the prospect when you wrote was tolerable, and the almost certainty of the high prices continuing, will meet with no diminution *now* from either the scab or rust. If it had shed its blossom before the heavy rain, and was free from the scab at the date of your letter, I think that it wod. receive no injury from it afterwards; and as the rain and thick weather was attended by wind, and was also cool, I hope it is free from the Rust likewise.

Whenever you have leisure to do it, it would be serviceable by way of stopping the progress of that gully at the mouth of the lane, at Mansion house, and indeed all others, to drive stakes across and wattle them at different distances, to catch and retain the trash that is swept down with the torrent. They also serve

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to break the force of the water; and by degrees, with other assistance, fill them up. The gullies I mean. Without these obstructions, the descending water from very heavy rains sweep all before it, I am etc.

To THE SENATE

United States, June 25, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate: It has been represented by our Minister plenipotentiary near the French Republic, that such of our commercial relations with France, as may require the support of the Und. States in *detail,* cannot be well executed without a Consul General. Of this I am satisfied; when I consider the extent of the mercantile claims now depending before the French Government; the necessity of bringing into the hands of one Agent the various applications to the several Committees of administration, residing at Paris; the attention which must be paid to the conduct of Consuls and Vice Consuls; and the nature of the services which are the peculiar objects of a ministers care, and leave no leisure for his intervention in business, to which Consular functions are competent. I therefore nominate Fulwar Skipwith, to be Consul General of the United States, in France. . . .[11]

To THE SENATE

United States, June 25, 1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate: Just at the close of the last session of Congress, I received from one of the Senators and one of the representatives of the State of Georgia, an application for a treaty to be held with the tribes or nations of Indians claiming

[11] The omitted portion contains other and minor nominations. Skipwith and the others were confirmed by the Senate, June 26.

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the right of soil to certain lands lying beyond the present temporary boundary line of that State, and which were described in an Act of the Legislature of Georgia passed on the 28th. of December last, which has already been laid before the Senate. This application, and the subsequent correspondence with the Governor of Georgia are herewith transmitted. The subject being very important, I thought proper to postpone a decision upon that application. The views I have since taken of the matter, with the information received of a more pacific disposition on the part of the Creeks, have induced me now, to accede to the request; but with this explicit declaration: That neither my assent, nor the treaty which may be made, shall be considered as affecting any question which may arise upon the supplementary act, passed by the Legislature of the State of Georgia on the 7th of January last, upon which enquiries have been instituted, in pursuance of a resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives; and that any cession or relinquishment of the Indian claims, shall be made in the general terms of the treaty of New York; which are contemplated as the form proper to be generally used on such occasions; and on the condition that one half of the expense of the supplies of provisions for the Indians assembled at the treaty, be borne by the State of Georgia.

Having concluded to hold the treaty requested by that State, I was willing to embrace the opportunity it would present, of enquiring into the causes of the dissatisfaction of the Creeks which has been manifested, since the treaty of New York, by their numerous and distressing depredations on our southwestern frontiers. Their depredations on the Cumberland have been so frequent and so peculiarly destructive, as to lead me to think they must originate in some claim to the lands upon that river. But whatever may have been the cause, it is important

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to trace it to its sources, for independent of the destruction of lives and property, it occasions a very serious annual expense to the United States. The Commissioners for holding the proposed treaty will therefore be instructed to enquire into the causes of the hostilities to which I have referred, and to enter into such reasonable stipulations as will remove them and give permanent peace to those parts of the United States.

I now nominate Benjamin Hawkins, of North Carolina, George Clymer of Pennsylvania; and Andrew Pickens of South Carolina, to be Commissioners[12] to hold a treaty with the Creek nation of Indians, for the purposes herein before expressed.[13]

*To JOHN CANNON

Philadelphia, June 27, 1795.

Sir: Please to deliver to Mr. Ross, or send them to him by a careful hand, the Surveys of all my lands with which you have been furnished.

And let me entreat you to make, without further delay, a final settlement of the accounts between us; pay what is in your hands; and deposit the statement of all that is due to me from the tenants, with the papers respecting the several tenements, with Mr. Morgan; that he may, thereby, be enabled to go on with my business. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ISRAEL SHREVE

Philadelphia, June 27, 1795.

Sir: Had the terms on which I offered you my land in Fayette county been complied with on your part, the bargain, as

[12] The Senate confirmed these nominations June 26.
[13] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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I informed you in my letters, would have been conclusive on mine. But this not being done, and the end of June likely to be as unproductive as the first of it, of the payment which was then to have been made, I conceive myself under no obligation to fulfil the offer I made you on the 14th. of January last, of the above mentioned land. Nevertheless, if by the first day of August next you shall pay One thousand pounds Pennsylvania curry. with interest thereon, from the first day of June; and interest on the remaining sum from the sd. first of June agreeably to the former proposals, in the letter above mentioned, and do, moreover, pay up all arrearages of Rent (on account of which I learn from Colo. Cannon, to my very great surprize, much is due) the conveyance will be made to you in the same manner as if payment had according to agreement, taken place on the first of this month. If it is not, I do hereby declare, that the former agreement and the present offer, will be considered as null and void, to all intents and purposes, as much so, as if no negotiation had ever taken place between us for the said land. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CHARLES MORGAN

Philadelphia, June 28, 1795.

Sir: Business, and other circumstances, have prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 23d. of April until now, that I do it by Mr. Ross.

I have seen Colo. Cannon, and in strong terms have represented to him the impropriety of his delay in furnishing you with a statement of the concerns between him (in my behalf) and the tenants in the Counties of Fayette and Washington, and in not making a final settlement of all the accounts between us.

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If any dependence can be placed in his assurances, he would as soon as he returned home be ready to render his accounts, and give in the statement which has been required of him; but he is continually reducing the Rents under pretence of allowing for improvements. This, to be sure, is singular, enough, for fencing &ca. of Plantations or farms which have been settled fifteen or twenty years. If the tenants on Millers run have carried wheat to Colo. Cannon's Mill, it behoves them to receive payment for it, and therewith to discharge their Rents to you; for I shall look to *them* and not to *him,* from whom I can get nothing without more trouble than it is worth, and who ought not to have concerned himself with the business, after it was put into your hands which are due after that period.

It would be well to ascertain what is due from Colo. Shreve on account of Rent as soon as possible for he will receive no conveyance of the land which he lives until all arrearages, due thereon (as well as the first payment of the purchase money) are paid up.

Having experienced more plague than profit in collecting the rents of my lands in the counties beforementioned. It is my intention to sell both tracts, if I can obtain what I conceive to be the worth of them as leases therefore will impede the sale, I am not disposed at this time, under these circumstances to give any. Among the papers which were deposited in the hands of Colo. Cannon, were copies of the Surveys of my lands on the Ohio and great Kanhawa; if these should have been received by you, I request that they may be given, or by some safe conveyance sent, to Mr. Ross, your Senator. And I pray you to write me, as soon as you can, what state my business is in with the Tenants; what sum you have actually received on account of Rent; what you have a prospect of soon receiving; and what

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is due. In short, I wish to know what the real situation of my affairs as they respect these tracts is.

I do not recollect any business, which the United States have, at this time that requires Surveyors, nor likely to be until a land Office is opened, and when this will happen I know no more than you do. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, June 28, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have received your letter of the 21st with its enclosures, and am very glad to find by it that your Wheat crop is likely to turn out pretty well. The sample of the grain which you sent me is not bad; but are the ears *large,* or *small?* If the former, and filled with grain as good as that which you sent me, I shall have no cause to repine; notwithstanding the injury it sustained by the rains and frosts of the open winter. Continue to observe, and compare with the grain which grew nearest to it, that that was cut on the 17th. instant. If in doing this, it shall be found, ultimately, not to have shriveled, and that a bushel of it is as heavy as a bushel of other wheat (of the same kind, and nearly of the same quality in appearance, while growing) and will moreover yield as much flour it may be considered as an unequivocal evidence of the propriety of early cutting: for even admitting there should be no waste from over ripeness, and shedding of grain in the latter part of Harvest, nor no risk from beating rains which break the straw, and lay it down but too frequently at that season, yet, the advantage which would be derived from the difference, in the straw, cut at these two periods, is alone an object of great magnitude, in support of the stock; and would amply counterbalance, and compensate for some shrinkage in the grain.

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As the weather, latterly, has been seasonable, and your oats (now) must be in head, a pretty good idea may be formed of the crop, that is, whether the prospect is good, bad, or indifferent: of which you will let me know. At the sametime, it wd. be pleasing to hear how your Corn, Potatoes, Buck Wheat, &ca. &ca. look, and what the prospect for grasses is.

I had, in my own mind, fixed on Monday the 13th. of July to commence my journey for Mount Vernon; but having heard of the chiefs of two distant Indian nations being upon the road on a visit to me, and on business also; it is highly probable I shall not have it in my power to get out so soon. Have Veal, Mutton and Lambs in good order for us; and reserve a good many of the last years Oats for the Stable, as there can be no question of a heavy demand for them; for we already know that many intend to visit us, so soon as they hear of our arrival. I am etc.

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Philadelphia, June 29, 1795.

Sir: I enclose to you a copy of the resolution of the Senate,[14] advising, that the late treaty with Great Britain be ratified.[15] Upon this resolution two questions arise, 1st Is, or is not that resolution, intended to be the final act of the Senate; or do they expect, that the new article, which is proposed, shall be submitted to them, before the treaty takes effect? 2d., Does, or does not the Constitution permit The *President* to ratify the Treaty, without submitting the new article, after it shall be

[14] Dated June 24, 1795.
[15] Jay's Treaty. It was signed Nov. 19, 1794.

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agreed to by the british King, to the Senate for their further advice and consent?[16]

I wish you to consider this subject as soon as possible, and transmit to me your opinion in *writing;* that I may without delay take some definitive step upon the Treaty.[17]

*To JOHN RUTLEDGE

Philadelphia, July 1, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 18th. ulto.[18] and Mr. Jay's resignation of the Office of chief Justice of the United States,[19] both came to my hands yesterday.

The former gave me much pleasure, and without hesitating a moment, after knowing you would accept the latter, I directed the Secretary of State to make you an official offer of this honorable appointment. To express to you my wish that it may be convenient, and agreeable to you to accept it. To intimate, in that case, my desire, and the advantages which would attend your being in this city the first monday in August (at wch. time the next session of the Supreme court will commence); and To inform you, that your Commission as chief Justice will take date on this day (July the first when Mr. Jay's will cease) but that it would be detained here, to be presented to you on your arrival.

I shall only add, that the Secretary will write to you by Post, and by a water conveyance also if there be any Vessel in this

[16] These two questions were drawn up by Randolph and submitted to the President, June 25, with the suggestion that the Cabinet members give their opinions thereon in writing. Randolph also informed the President that "Mr. Adet has proposed a conference with E. R. tomorrow morning. . . . Whatever has been lying in his breast will no doubt then appear." This letter is in the *Washington Papers.* Randolph's opinion is filed in the *Washington Papers* at the end of June, 1795.

[17] The text of Jay's Treaty is printed in the *American State Papers, Foreign Relations,* vol. 1, and also in *Treaties . . . of the United States,* edited by Hunter Miller (Department of State, Government Printing Office: 1931), vol. 2.

[18] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[19] Jay's private letter of June 29, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers.*

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harbour which will sail for Charleston in a few days, and that, with much sensibility for your good wishes, and an assurance of the sincerest esteem and regard I am etc.

*To JOHN JAY

Philadelphia, July 2, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th. Ulto., resigning the office of Chief Justice of the United States I received yesterday, and with sincere regret. For the obliging sentiments you have expressed for me in your private letter which accompanied it, I as sincerely thank you.

In whatever line you may walk my best wishes will always accompany you; They will particularly do so on the theatre you are about to enter upon;[20] which I sincerely wish may be as smooth, easy and happy, as it is honorable. With very great esteem etc.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private, and perfectly confidential)

Philadelphia, July 3, 1795.

My dear Sir: The treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, which has lately been before the Senate, has, as you will perceive, made its public entry into the Gazettes of this city. Of course the merits, and demerits of it will (especially in its unfinished state)[21] be freely discussed.

It is not the opinion of *those* who were determined (before it was promulgated) to *support,* or *oppose* it, that I am sollicitous

[20] Governor of New York.

[21] Senator Stevens Thomson Mason, of Virginia, after Benjamin Franklin Bache had published a sketch of the treaty in *The Aurora*, sent Bache the full text, which was published as a pamphlet, July 1.

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to obtain; for *these* I well know rarely do more than examine the side to which they lean; without giving the reverse the consideration it deserves; possibly without a wish to be apprised of the reasons, on which the objections are founded. My desire is to learn from dispassionate men, who have knowledge of the subject, and abilities to judge of it, the genuine opinion they entertain of *each* article of the instrument; and the *result* of it in the aggregate. In a word, placed on the footing the matter now stands, it is, more than ever, an incumbent duty on me, to do what propriety, and the true interest of this country shall appear to require at my hands on so important a subject, under such delicate circumstances.

You will be at no loss to perceive, from what I have already said, that my wishes are, to have the favorable, and unfavorable side of *each* article stated, and compared together;[22] that I may see the bearing and tendency of them: and, ultimately, on which side the balance is to be found.

This treaty has, I am sensible, many relations, which, in deciding thereon, ought to be attended to; some of them too are of an important nature. I know also, that to judge with precision of its commercial arrangements, there ought likewise to be an intimate acquaintance with the various branches of commerce between this Country and Great Britain as it *now* stands; as it will be placed by the treaty; and as it may affect our present, or restrain our future treaties with other nations. All these things I am persuaded you have given as much attention to as most men; and I believe that your late employment under the General government afforded you more opportunities of deriving knowledge therein, than most of them who had not

[22] Hamilton's rough draft of this comparison, headed "Remarks on the Treaty of Amity etc" (53 pp.), is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of July 14, 1795.

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studied and practiced it scientifically, upon a large and comprehensive scale.

I do not know how you may be occupied at present; or how incompatible this request of mine may be to the business you have in hand. All I can say is, that however desirous I may be of availing myself of your sentiments on the points I have enumerated, and such others as are involved in the treaty, and the resolution of the Senate;[23] (both of which I send you, lest they should not be at hand) it is not my intention to interrupt you in that business; or, if you are disinclined to go into the investigation I have requested, to press the matter upon you: for of this you may be assured, that with the most unfeigned regard, and with every good wish for your health and prosperity I am etc.

PS. Admitting that his B: Majesty will consent to the suspension of the 12th. article of the treaty, is it necessary that the treaty should again go to the Senate? or is the President authorized by the resolution of that body to ratify it without?[24]

*To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, July 5, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th. Ulto, came to my hands at a time when my attention was much occupied on some matters of importance. To this circumstance, and to my knowledge (as you will perceive by the enclosed extract of a letter from the Secretary of State to the Commissioners of the federal city) that one of your requests had been anticipated; and to the expression

[23] The Senate resolve of ratification, June 24, was provisional "on condition that there be added to the said Treaty an article, whereby it shall be agreed to suspend the operation of so much of the 12th article, as respects the trade which his said Majesty thereby consents may be carried on, between the United States and his islands in the West Indies, in the manner, and on the terms and conditions therein specified."

[24] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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of your apprehension, that another would probably come too late, is to be ascribed my silence 'till now. I have, however, desired the Secretary of State to give it as my opinion to the Commrs., that all transactions respecting the square which is in dispute between you, and them (in behalf of the public) ought to be suspended, until the pending adjudication is terminated unless they can assign reasons to the contrary wch. do not occur to me; and I cannot but again, and again, express my regret, that so unpleasant a dispute shd. have arisen. But unless the Commissioners are impeached for mal-practice in Office; or are specifically charged with incapacity and unfitness to discharge the several duties entrusted to them; I do not see on what ground, or with what propriety I could institute an enquiry into *their* conduct: beyond this, I am sure I should have no right to proceed.

The answer which I gave Mr. D. Carroll to a request not dissimilar to the one made by you, but more limited in its object, is herewith enclosed, as a just statement (as far as I have recollection) of *all* the transactions respecting this dispute, that passed between yourself, Messrs. Scott and Thornton and me, in the course of my journey to, from, and whilst I was at Mount Vernon in April last. The letter of those Gentlemen, which came to me at that place, did not, even at the moment of its reception, strike me as an *official* act of the Board; but rather as a comment on the existing dispute, and explanatory of the motives which had actuated their conduct. In this view, the propriety of ordering a copy to be furnished might be questioned. If it is of record, in the Office, it is already comprehended in the direction they have received in the letter of the 23d. Ulto. from the Secretary of State to them, a copy of which (instead of an extract) I have this moment recd from that Office. With the greatest esteem etc.[25]

[25] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, July 5, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 28th, with the enclosed reports, was duly received.

I think it very likely that I shall commence my journey for Mount Vernon about the middle of this month; but as business may detain me a few days longer than I expect, I will not speak positively at *this* time. In my next, I shall, I hope, be able to name the day I shall leave the city. But let not this prevent your writing as usual, as I shall meet the letter on the road, if it does not arrive here, before I set out.

If the dormant windows are not put in, on each side of the Pediment, front side of the stable, I could wish (if it does not interfere with the more important work of Donaldson) that it might be set about; it would not only add to the look of the building, but the grain and hay both, would derive benefit from the air it wd receive from those windows; as would the Stables, if the back dormant windows could be compleated on the range with those already in, and of the same size, and appearance.

Davy's lost lambs, carry with them a very suspicious appearance; and it will be to be regretted, if he betakes himself to Rogueries of that sort; for in that case, nothing will escape, if he can avoid detection; and grain will be less liable to it than animals. If the lambs had been poisoned, or had died a natural death, or their deaths had been occasioned by any accident, their bones would have been forth coming, and his not being able to produce them, is an argument both of his guilt, and of his not expecting to be called upon for that evidence of the truth of his assertion, and fair dealing. This circumstance will make it necessary to watch him a little closer. He has some

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very sly, cunning and roguish negroes under him; among whom none has a greater disposition to be so, or who he can make a more useful agent of, than Nathan; his mother and father.

How, when the Manufacturing season is over, or the water is scarce, is Ben at the Mill employed? Surely the Miller (who ought himself under these circumstances [to be employed in Coopering) does not keep him in the Mill merely to save *himself* the trouble of taking off, and putting on a few bags of grist, in the week. I have often intended to enquire into this matter; but always, at the time of writing, forgot to do it.

What is the matter with Ruth and Ben, (not the Ben that cut himself) at River farm, that week after week they are returned sick? The first of them, Ruth, has been aiming, for sometime, to get herself excused from work. More than they are able to do in reason, I do not expect; but I have no idea of their being totally exempted, whilst work proportioned, and adapted to their strength and situation, can be found for them. The example is bad, and will be too readily (as is the case at present with several more of them) attempted; if, under the plea of pains, &ca &ca they find they can carry their point.

I am sorry to hear you are indisposed, and that Groves is ill. I hope this letter will find you both recovered. I am Your friend and well wisher.][26]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, July 7, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letter of yesterday[27] is this moment received. Not a line from Mr. Pinckney. I fancy he left London

[26] The portion in brackets is supplied from the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[27] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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for Madrid about the 8th. or 10th. of May. Nor has the government any thing but News-paper accounts of the order you allude to. Yours ever and Affectly.[28]

*To THE EARL OF DUNDONALD[29]

Philadelphia, July 9, 1795.

My Lord: By Mr. Jay I had the honor to receive your Lordships favor of the 9th. of April, accompanying your treatise "on the intimate connection that subsists between agriculture and chemistry." The work must be curious and interesting, and for your goodness in sending it to me, I pray your Lordship to accept the best thanks of Your etc.

*To JAMES RENNELL[30]

Philadelphia, July 9, 1795.

Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 29th. of April, accompanying your Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan, with engravings &ca. for your kindness in sending which I entreat you to accept my best thanks.

I have not had leisure yet to look over them, with attention: but I am persuaded that there is a fund of interesting information to be found in the work: for the mean of coming at which I am extremely thankful. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

PROCLAMATION

July 10, 1795.

Whereas the commissioners appointed by the President of the United States to confer with the citizens in the western

[28] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[29] Archibald Cochrane, (ninth) Earl of Dundonald.
[30] English geographer and Fellow of the Royal Society.

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counties of Pennsylvania during the late insurrection which prevailed therein, by their act and agreement bearing date the 2d day of September last, in pursuance of the powers in them vested, did promise and engage that if assurances of submission to the laws of the United States should be bona fide given by the citizens resident in the fourth survey of Pennsylvania, in the manner and within the time in the said act and agreement specified, a general pardon should be granted on the 10th day of July then next ensuing of all treasons and other indictable offenses against the United States committed within the said survey before the 22d day of August last, excluding therefrom, nevertheless, every person who should refuse or neglect to subscribe such assurance and engagement in manner aforesaid, or who should after such subscription violate the same, or willfully obstruct or attempt to obstruct the execution of the acts for raising a revenue on distilled spirits and stills, or be aiding or abetting therein; and

Whereas I have since thought proper to extend the said pardon to all persons guilty of the said treasons, misprisions of treasons, or otherwise concerned in the late insurrection within the survey aforesaid who have not since been indicted or convicted thereof, or of any other offense against the United States:

Therefore be it known that I, George Washington, President of the said United States, have granted, and by these presents do grant, a full, free, and entire pardon to all persons (excepting as is hereinafter excepted) of all treasons, misprisions of treason, and other indictable offenses against the United States committed within the fourth survey of Pennsylvania before the said 22d day of August last past, excepting and excluding therefrom, nevertheless, every person who refused or neglected to give and subscribe the said assurances in the manner aforesaid (or having subscribed hath violated the same) and now

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standeth indicted or convicted of any treason, misprision of treason, or other offense against the said United States, hereby remitting and releasing unto all persons, except as before excepted, all penalties incurred, or supposed to be incurred, for or on account of the premises.[81]

*To REVEREND CLEMENT CRUTTWELL[82]

Philadelphia, July 10, 1795.

Revd. Sir: It has so happened, but really I can hardly tell how, that I have been very deficient in not acknowledging at an earlier period the receipt of your obliging favor of the 1st. of May last year, accompanying a copy of the Works of the venerable Bishop of Sodor and Man;[83] which, agreeably to the Will of the late Doctor Wilson (his Son) you had the goodness to send me.[84]

Accept now, I pray you Sir, my thanks for the part you have executed in this business; and the assurances that my not having done it before did not proceed from want of respect to the memory of the Author, his son, or yourself; but to mere accident. With very great respect I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, July 10, 1795.

Sir: I could not omit so favorable an opportunity, as the departure of Mr. Strickland affords me, of presenting my best

[81] From Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*. He copied it from Sparks's, who states that this proclamation was not made public until August 6. No copy of the proclamation is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[82] An English author and compiler. He published Bishop Wilson's *Bible* in 1785, and *Works* in 1781.

[83] Rev. Thomas Wilson's (Bishop of Sodor and Man) *Works* were published in 1781, the Bishop having died in 1755. Rev. Thomas Wilson, son of Bishop, died in 1784.

[84] Washington's copy of the Bishop of Sodor and Man's *Bible*, which accompanied the Bishop's *Works*, is now in the Library of Congress. Cruttwell's letter of May 1, 1794, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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respects to you; and my sincere thanks for the views of Agriculture in the different counties of Great Britain, which you have had the goodness to send me. and for the Diploma (received by the hands of Mr. Jay) admitting me a foreign honorary member of the board of Agriculture.[25]

For this testimony of the attention of that body, and for the honor it has conferred on me, I have a high sense, in communicating of which to the board, I shall rely more on your goodness than on any expression of mine, to render it acceptable.

From the first intimation you were pleased to give me of this Institution, I conceived the most favorable ideas of its utility: and the more I have seen, and reflected on the plan since, the more convinced I am of its importance, in a national point of view, not only to your own country, but to all others which are not too much attached to old and bad habits to forsake them, and to new countries that are *just beginning* to form systems for the improvement of their husbandry.

Mr. Strickland has not been idle since he came to this country. On him therefore, for a description of the clime, the soil; the agriculture, and improvements generally; the modes of carrying them on; the produce of the land; the draught cattle; domestic animals; and the farming impliments which are used by our people in the Eastern and middle States, through which he has passed I shall refer you. Nothing, I believe has escaped his observation that merited notice.

You will add to the obligations already conferred on me, by directing your Bookseller to supply me regularly with all such proceedings of the board as are intended for the public; and when they are in a fit state for it, that they may be neatly bound. To this request, I pray he may be desired to add the cost, which

[25] The diploma of the Board of Agriculture of Great Britain, dated Mar. 25, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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shall be paid at sight, to his order here, or remitted to him, as may be most convenient and agreeable to himself. With very great esteem etc.[86]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, July 12, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 5th, and the reports of the preceeding week, have been received. I am glad to hear your Wheat harvest is secured. If it yields well it will be fortunate as there is no doubt of the price being good. The Indian corn will have no cause to complain from the want of heat, for some days past.

If nothing more than I foresee at present, happens to prevent it, I shall leave this place (with my family) for Mount Vernon on Wednesday next, the 15th. instt., but when I shall arrive at it, is more difficult to decide, as the weather is extremely hot, and my horses very fat. These circumstances must, at any rate, cause my movements to be slow; or I shall hazard too much in my horses.

Hoping soon to be with you, I shall add no more than to wish you better health; and that your Oat and Hay harvest may prove good. I am etc.

*To JOHN GILL

Philadelphia, July 13, 1795.

Sir: It is now near two months since I sent you the Deeds for my land on Difficult run, from which to draw a conveyance to yourself, on the terms, and agreeably to the instructions

[86] On July 10 Washington wrote to Maj. Gen. Norman Macleod, of the British Army, thanking him, briefly, for some publications respecting the British constitution. This letter is in the New York Historical Society.

On this same day (July 10) Washington also wrote a brief note of thanks to John Jones, of Dublin, Ireland, for volumes of "the Sentimental and Masonic Magazine." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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contained in a letter to Charles Lee Esqr., or, that they might be returned to me again.

As I can see no cause for, a propriety in this delay, I do now take the liberty of declaring it as my intention, that unless, the instruments fixing the agreement according to the stipulated terms in the aforesaid letter, are *immediately* executed, I shall consider the offer I made you for the above land, as null and void, and request my deeds may be sent to me accordingly. I am etc.

*To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, July 13, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 8th. instt, and thank you for the information contained in it; and for the obliging tender of your services in the disposal of my moiety of Woodstock Manner. As that land was received in payment of the balance of a debt, the greater part of which had been discharged by such driblets, and in such a manner as really to have been of very little service to me, I will wait awhile to see to what height the price of land thereabouts will rise before I dispose of it, under a full conviction that it will not fall. With great esteem etc.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Philadelphia, July 13, 1795.

My dear Sir: I have, in the regular course of the Posts, been duly favored with your letters of the 9th, accompanying your observations on the several articles of the treaty with Great Britain; and of the 10th. supplementary thereto.

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For both, I offer you my sincere thanks, as they have afforded me great satisfaction. Altho' it was my wish that your observations on each article should be diffusive, yet I am really ashamed when I behold the trouble it has given you, to explore, and to explain so fully as you have done, the whole of them.

The most obnoxious article (the 12th) being suspended by the Senate, there is no occasion to express any sentiment thereon. I wish, however, it had appeared in a different form. And altho' it is but fair to presume that, no further advantage could have been obtained in the 3d. article, yet the exclusion of the vessels belonging to the United States from all the "Seaports, Harbours, Bays or Creeks of his Majesty" when theirs are admitted into all ours, to the highest Ports of entry, is not marked with reciprocity. It may be urged, and truly, that under the existing regulations of the B. government, we are not, at this time, allowed those priviledges; except when they are made to subserve their own purposes: whilst from Quebec (but how we are to get there I know not) and upwards, the lakes, and the waters on their side of the line, are open to our commerce, and that we have equal advantages in the Indian trade on both sides; except within the limits of the Hudson's bay company.

All this looks very well on paper; but I much question whether in its operation it will not be found to work very much against us.

1st. What are the limits of that company? are they so defined, and so clearly understood, as that *our* traders when they are in *the Wilderness* can with precision say, thus far I may of *right* go, without let or hindrance?

2d. admitting the fact, will they not, having possession of the trade, and the Indians being in their interest, by every artifice of *their* traders, prevent *ours* from extending themselves into the country; sharing in the profit and thereby bringing on disputes which may terminate seriously.

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3d. Does not the hitherto (I might add present) improper interference of the British, within our territory, and the sollicitude that that government has manifested upon all occasions to get a footing on the Mississippi; and on the waters and carrying places leading thereto, evince, in a most unequivocal manner, that disputes may be expected to arise within *our* territory as well as *their own,* from the attempts of their Traders to monopolize the trade; and from the overbearing support, or underhand countenance, they will give, not only in what is *right,* but in what is convenient, to its views also.

My opinion of this article therefore is, that it would have been more for our peace, if not for our interest, to have restrained the traders of both nations to their own side of the line; leaving the Indians on each, to go to whichsoever their interest, convenience or inclination, might prompt them. This wd. have thwarted the views of the British on the Mississipi, whilst all the doors into upper Canada, and the Western Country would have been as wide open *then,* as they are now made by the treaty; and no difficulty, I am persuaded, would have been found by our people, of introducing Goods across the line, after they had got them to it, and the Posts possessed by us, if this avenue should be found the most convenient and cheapest.

I wish too the 2d. Article had been more definite with respect to the terms "Precincts or Jurisdiction." Except that the shortness of its duration for operation may afford a remedy, I should expect many disputes would arise therefrom.

I asked, or intended to ask in my letter of the 3d. whether you conceived (admitting the suspension of the 12th. Article should be agreed to by the B. Government) there would be a necessity for the treaty going before the Senate again for their advice and consent? This question takes its birth from a declaration of the minority of that body, to that effect. With much truth and sincerity &c.

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PS. I was almost in the act of sending the enclosed letter to the Post Office when your favor of the 11th. was put into my hands.

Query: Whether the passage, which you have quoted from the 15th. article in your letter of the above date does not mean that no prohibition shall be imposed on the exportation or importation of any articles to or from the U. S which shall not be also imposed on the like exportation or importation to or from other foreign nations? That is: that the U. S shall be under no other disability, than any other foreign nations. If so, there would seem to be no privilege granted; but only an engagement, that other nations shall not be rivals to the U. S by being freed from the prohibition. For example: Your idea is, that whatever of its own produce Spain may carry from their territory; that is, they may reexport to England Spanish produce. I wish this could be made clear; for I readily see the advantage of it in one sense; tho' I am not sure that we can bring any country, except the East Indies, into our own, the produce of it, and reexport it to England so as to make a profit from this circuitous voyage.[87]

*To WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, July 14, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 24th. of May, giving an acct. of the condition of Royal Gift.

I am sorry the removal of him from Virginia to South Carolina has been attended with so little public or private advantage. If he is yet alive, and upon a critical examination of his case, it should be thought that he has sufficient health and strength remaining to stand the voyage, I would thank you for causing

[87] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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him to be shipped (under the care of an attentive Master of a Vessel) for Baltimore, recommended to the care of the Collector of that Port. I do not say to Alexandria, because I presume passages to that place from Charleston are rare, but, if perchance such a conveyance should present itself, a preference, for obvious reasons, would be given to it. In either case, I hope the animal will be well secured, and provided for on the passage. I am much obliged to you, Colo. Hampton and all others, who have paid attention to this Jack whose ruin was predicted by all those who were witnesses of the manner in wch. he was treated, before he left Virginia, by Allan; as hath, I believe, been mentioned to you in a former letter. I pray you to present my best wishes and respects to Mrs. Washington, and believe me to be Dear Sir, Your etc.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, July 14, 1795.

My dear Sir: I received your favor of yesterday, this moment, when I am on the eve of a journey to Virginia.

The opinion which you have given as to its being necessary to submit the *new* article to the Senate, being in direct opposition to that of the Secretaries and the Attorney general, has occasioned some embarrassment with me. For I always understood it to be the sense of the majority of the Senate, that they were not to pass their judgment upon the new article further than they have done. But as I shall be absent, and Mr. Randolph has before him the bringing of this business to a close; I wish you to write to him your ideas, if upon mature reflection you shall think differently from the gentlemen around me; or you find the sense of the Senate to be different from what I have been led to expect. I have told Mr. Randolph that your

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sentiments do not agree with those which I received from the Officers of government; and have desired him to revise them.

I have also told him, that I have requested the favor of you to write to him on this subject. Very affectionately &c.

PS. Notwithstanding one great object of my visit to Mount Vernon is relaxation; yet, to hear from you, the sentimts. entertained of the treaty, and in short on any other interesting subject, with which the public mind is occupied would be a considerable gratification. The state of our pecuniary matters in Holland, at this time, is a bar to Mr. Adams's leaving that country, but the next best step will be adopted. Yours as before.[88]

*To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, July 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: Whether the transmission of the letter herewith sent may lead to a further discovery of the intentions of the writer; and who the writer is, is more than I can inform you. I send it because Mr. Bingham, the Author, has suggested the measure; because you are acquainted with my ideas respecting those lands; and because to know the disposition of others, towards them, can be productive of no harm, but the contrary.

In a few moments I shall set out for Virginia, to avoid (among other reasons) the intense heat of the city; wch. for the last four or five days, has been suffocating.[89] With very great esteem etc.

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[88] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On July 14 Dandridge wrote to the Secretary of War that the President had decided on "the site on Conogocheague as the most advantageous and proper" for an arsenal, and naming James Winchester to succeed James Robertson as brigadier general of the Miro district. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[89] Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon about 8 a. m., July 15, according to the *Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer*, "in a two-horse phaeton for one person, his family in a coach and four horses, and two servants on horseback leading his saddle horse." He arrived at Baltimore for breakfast, July 18.

On July 15, before leaving Philadelphia, he wrote briefly to William Strickland, intrusting to his care the letter for Sir John Sinclair, July 10, 1795, *q. v.* A press copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Baltimore, July 18, 1795.

Sir: At this place, and in the moment I was about to step into my carriage, I was overtaken by an Express bearing the enclosed despatches.

As the application is of an unusual and disagreeable nature;[40] and moreover, is intended, I have no doubt, to place me in an embarrassed situation, from whence an advantage may be taken, I forward it to you with a request, that you, the other two Secretaries and the Attorney General, will give it due consideration; and if it be proper for me to return an answer, that one may be drawn, which will accord with *all* your ideas (if it can be done) and forwarded to me by post, that I may transmit it from Mount Vernon. In haste, I am etc.[41]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: Both your Letters, dated the 17th Instant,[42] found me at this place, where I arrived on Monday.[43] The Letter from the Commissioners[44] to you, I return, as I also do the Gazettes of Pittsburg and Boston. The proceedings at the latter place are of a very unpleasant nature.[45] The result I forwarded to you from Baltimore, accompanied with a few hasty lines, written at the moment I was departing from thence; with a request that it might be considered by the confidential officers of Gov-

[40] See Washington's letter to the Boston Selectmen, July 28, 1795, *post*.
[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[42] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.
[43] July 20.
[44] Of the District of Columbia.
[45] A meeting of the Inhabitants of Boston, July 13, on Jay's Treaty. The original proceedings are in the *Washington Papers*.

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ernment,[46] and returned to me, with an answer thereto, if an answer should be deemed advisable.

In my hurry, I did not signify the propriety of letting those Gentlemen know fully my determination with respect to the ratification of the Treaty, and the train it was in; but as this was necessary, in order to enable them to form their opinions on the subject submitted, I take it for granted that both were communicated to them by you as a matter of course. The first, that is the conditional ratification (if the late order which we have heard of respecting provision Vessels is not in operation,) may, on all fit occasions, be spoken of as my determination; unless from any thing you have heard, or met with since I left you, it should be thought more adviseable to communicate further with me on the subject. My opinion respecting the treaty, is the same now that it was: namely, not favorable to it, but that it is better to ratify it in the manner the Senate have advised (and with the reservation already mentioned), than to suffer matters to remain as they are, unsettled. Little has been said to me on the subject of this treaty, along the road I passed; and I have seen no one since, from whom I could hear much concerning it; but from indirect discourses, I find endeavours are not wanting to place it in all the odious points of view, of which it is susceptible; and in some which it will not admit.

I should be glad if you would call upon Messrs. Morris and Nicholson,[47] (Greenleaf being no longer concerned); and in earnest and strong terms represent to them, the serious consequences which must inevitably result to the public buildings in the federal City, if the deficiency, or part thereof, due on their contract, is not paid. Besides arresting the work in its present critical state, and compelling the discharge of some valuable

[46] The Cabinet.
[47] John Nicholson.

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workmen, who may never be recovered; it would throw such a cloud over the public and private concerns of the City, and would be susceptible of such magnified and unfavorable interpretations, as to give it a vital wound. From the representations which have been made to me, by the Commissioners, it appears that twelve thousand dollars pr. month, is scarcely adequate to the *present* expenditures; and that the demand for more *must* increase, as the more expensive materials are brought into use, as they are now about to be of wrought stone &c. &c. If to pay the *whole* deficiency is not, at present, within the means of Messrs. Morris and Nicholson, a part thereof, and to keep pace with the current demand, might possibly enable the Commissioners, to proceed without much embarrassment in the *principal* work. Between forty and fifty thousand dollars, I am informed is now due on the Contract of Greenleaf & Co.

As you have discovered your mistake, with respect to the dates of the French decrees, I shall add nothing on that, nor on any other subject at this time, further than a desire to know if you have heard any thing more from M. Adet[48] on the treaty

[48] On July 14 Randolph made the following "Memorandum" which he later forwarded to the President:

"M. Adet came to the office, and told me that he had come to express to me in an amicable manner the uneasiness, which the treaty with Great Britain had excited in him. Professing not to have seen it, I promised him a copy, and that day delivered it to him. He stated some days afterwards in writing three objections: 1. that we had *granted* to Great Britain liberty to seize our naval stores going to France; while France by her commercial treaty with the U. S. could not seize Naval stores of the U. S. going to England; 2. that English privateers may find an asylum in our ports, even during the present war with France; and 3. that France could not open a new negotiation with us, as we were prevented from departing, in a new treaty, from this stipulation in favor of British privateers; and France would not give up her prior right.

"In answer to the first objection, I have written to him, that contraband is left unchanged, where it stands by the law of nations: that the working of our treaty with France is reciprocal; inasmuch as if we were at war with England, France would be just where we are now; and that this working of our treaty was plainly foreseen, when it was made. Still I tell him, that upon the principles of hardship or injury to a friend, it shall be a subject of our new negotiation; shall not wait for the general treaty; and I doubt not that some modification may be devised.

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with G. Britain; and whether Mr. Jaudenes[49] has replied to your letter to him on the score of his inconsistency. I am, &c.[50]

P. S. A Solomon is not necessary to interpret the design of the Oration of Mr. Brackenridge.[51]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 24, 1795.

Dear Sir: My Letter from Baltimore, and the one written by Friday's post, dated the 22d. inst: renders it in a manner unnecessary for me to add more on the score of the treaty with G. Britain, or on the movements which are taking place thereupon in different parts, than to inform you that if circumstances should make it more eligible for me to repair to Philadelphia, than for you to come to this place, I can set out as well on a day's as a month's notice, for the seat of Government; where, if matters are peculiarly embarrassed, I should be on the theatre

"In answer to the second, I have written to him; that English privateers will not be admitted into our ports, during this or any other war with France: that our stipulation is exactly the same with that in the treaty of France with England in 1786; that the French treaty is protected from infraction by a positive clause in the treaty with G. Britain, and that it never shall be violated.

"In answer to the third objection; I have written to him, that we would not ask him to renounce the advantages given to French privateers, in exclusion of the enemies of France; and that the old treaty might be continued in force respecting this particular, so as still to give this right a priority to the like right, stipulated by the treaty with G. Britain.

"In the last paragraph of my letter I desire, that if any embarrassment still hangs upon these points, he may afford me an opportunity of meeting them, before his communications are despatched to the committee of public safety. While I was transcribing my letter, he came to see me; and I read to him the observations on the last point. He exclaimed, that they were very good, very good; and I inferred satisfactory. I met him at the President's, some time afterwards, and asked him if he had received my letter. He said, 'Yes.' I told him that I hoped, I had placed the subject upon a satisfactory footing. He expressed a degree of satisfaction: but not so pointed, as what he had said to me, as to the part of the letter, relative to the third objection. He added something about his not intending to discuss the law of the 23d. of March; but he spoke in so low a voice, that I did not catch his meaning. . . . My letter was dated the 6th. of July; and was sent on the 7th. or 8th. I have received no answer to it." This "Memorandum" is in the *Washington Papers*.

[49] José de Jaudenes.

[50] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[51] Hugh Henry Brackenridge.

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of information, with documents and other aids about me, that could not be had here.

I have not, as I mentioned to you in my last, heard much respecting the treaty since I left Philada. At Baltimore I remained no longer than to breakfast. In George town my whole time was spent on business with the Commissioners; and in Alexandria I did not stop. Yet the same leaven, that fermented a part of the Town of Boston, is at work, I am informed in other places; but whether it will produce the same fruit, remains to be decided.

I shall expect, agreeably to the assurances you have given me, to be well and regularly advised of the pros and cons in this business, and the preponderancy thereof. The Letter of Colo. H.[52] is returned. The one from Colo Deakins serves to shew in a greater degree, the necessity there is that Messrs. Morris and Nicholson should exert themselves to avert the threatened evil; and the French letter is forwarded for translation, or to be acted upon, if necessary.

The introduction of A. R. H.[53] to you was, I conceive, more the effect of design than of ignorance or inadvertency. The impropriety of the measure was too palpable, even if instances in abundance had not announced, that characters in the predicament that Gentleman was, could not be noticed by the officers of Government without giving umbrage.[54] The conduct of Mr M. is of a piece with that of the other; and one can scarcely forbear thinking, that these acts are part of a premeditated system to embarrass the Executive government. I am, &c.[55]

[53] Alexander Hamilton.

[54] Archibald Hamilton Rowan.

[55] Randolph's letter of July 20 (in the *Washington Papers*), telling of the Rowan incident, states that "Rowan, who was convicted of sedition in Ireland, arrived the day before yesterday from France. Major Butler brought him to my office, to introduce him. This *inaccuracy* of this member of the senate [Pierce Butler, of South Carolina] did not surprise me; nor did it betray me into more than decent civility to a man, who brought a recommendatory letter from Colo. Monroe, dated in April."

[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To GEORGE LEWIS

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th instt. from Fredericksburgh, was received on thursday, and I should have answered it by the Post of Saturday, but was hurried in preparing letters for the northern mail, which I was obliged to dispatch on that day.

I thank you for the enquiries you made concerning my land on Green River, in Kentucky and am glad to hear the reports of it continue to be favorable. I can hardly think it possible that Genl. Lee could so far forget what was due to his own character as to sell the land I had purchased of him to Genl. Spotswood; for I not only have deeds for it, but his letters also, as evidence of my title to the two tracts of which I furnished you with copies of the Surveys.

The deeds (to the best of my recollection, for they are at Philadelphia) issued from the Land Office in Richmond, in my own name, at his request, several years ago; to save the expence and trouble of double conveyances, first *to him,* and from him *to me.* To suspect Genl. Lee of fraud in this transaction I cannot; and, as it is almost improbable that it should be the result of forgetfulness, I conceive (unless you have compared the courses and distances of My Surveys with those he has sold to Genl. Spotswood) that the two sales cannot be for the same land. General Lee had, as I have been informed, a good deal of land in that part of the country; and tracts of the same size, and on the same waters, may be mistaken one for the other. Certainty, however, may easily be obtained, by comparing the courses &ca. as above, and descriptions of Genl. Spotswoods Surveys with those you have of mine.

Mine I shall not relinquish, but for the full value of the land; and if that value would be increased by the purchase of the

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300 acres belonging to Mr. Wodrow, I hereby authorise you to make the purchase upon the best terms you can; taking care, however, to be under no mistake with respect to its value, and its contiguity to my land. Give me advice of what you do, and I will provide for paymt.

I wrote to Colo. Marshall[86] early in the Spring, by Mr. Obannion, requesting him to enter these tracts of mine with the Commissioners; and to pay the taxes due thereon: If he has not done it, I would thank you for causing it to be done; and the cost shall be paid to your order.

Let me pray you, to continue your enquiries respecting the circumstances, quality, situation and value of these lands of mine; and, from time to time, advise me of the result. When you go out again, as I understand you mean to do this fall, I will give you a conditional power of Attorney to sell the whole property, if in your judgment, upon a view thereof, an adequate price can be obtained for the same; and I will allow you a commission for so doing.

Unless business should require my presence in Philadelphia sooner (and then I shall go thither alone) it is not likely I shall leave this place until the end of September. If, therefore, you and Mrs. Lewis; my Sister and Harriot; or any of you, can make it convenient, and agreeable to yourselves to favor us with a visit, we should be happy in seeing you. Your Aunt joins me in love to you all, and with very great regard I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: My Letters for the post office in Alexandria, had been sent off some hours before the enclosed dispatches were

[86] Thomas Marshall.

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put into my hands by the young Gentleman, whose name is mentioned in Gov Clintons Letter to me, also forwarded.

Not willing to lose a post day, I hasten to send these resolutions above alluded to, late as it is, to Alexandria, to go on tomorrow; with a request similar to the one made from Baltimore. A day or two more will, I presume, bring to me the result of the meeting proposed to be held in Philada., which, probably will be followed by one from Baltimore and other towns; altho' I have no advice thereof further than the papers contained, as being in agitation at Baltimore before I left Philada. If one comes from the last mentioned place (Philad.) and is immediately published, as the others have been, before delivery; let me answer thereto, if answers are adviseable, follow it without waiting for my request. I have no time to add more, than that the commercal part of the treaty, as far as my information goes, is generally disliked. I am, &c.[57]

P. S. What says Mr. Adet upon the subject of the treaty, and the movements thereupon?[58]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: On Saturday morning I received your letter of the 21st instt with its enclosures. The Post of tomorrow from Alexandria is the first by which I could answer it.

If the meeting of the Commissioners, appointed to treat with the Onondagoes, Cayuga and Oneida Indians, took place at Albany the 15th. instant, as was expected by the extract of

[57] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[58] Randolph answered (July 31): "Mr. Adet has been ill, ever since you left this city. So that I have not seen him; nor do I collect any of his opinions. He bolted into objections to the treaty so zealously, and retreated so suddenly, that I cannot help thinking that he conceives, he had in a degree committed his government." Randolph's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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Genl. Schuylers letter to the Governor of New York; any further sentiment *now* on the unconstitutionality of the measure would be recd. too late. If it did not take place, according to expectation It is my desire that you would obtain the best advice you can on the case and do what prudence, with a due regard to the Constitution and laws, shall dictate.

With respect to the meeting which is proposed to be held with the St. Regis Indians the proposition of Govr. Jay[59] is regular; and I can think of no better character than Colo. Wadsworth or Mr. Boudinot[60] to attend it on the part of the U States. If both should decline the service any other respectable and well known disinterested character would meet my approbation equally.

The extract from Mr. Higgenson's[61] letter, which you were so obliging as to send me, places the proceedings of the town of Boston in a different point of view than might have been entertained from the resolutions wch. were sent to me by Express, accompanied with a letter from the Selectmen of that place. But (much indeed to be regretted!) party disputes are now carried to that length, and truth is so enveloped in mist, and false representation that it is extremely difficult to know through what channel to seek it. This difficulty to one, who is of no party, and whose sole wish is to pursue, with undeviating steps a path which would lead this Country to respectability, wealth and happiness is exceedingly to be lamented. But such (for wise purposes it is presumed) is the turbulence of human passions in party disputes; when victory, more than truth, is the palm contended for, "that the Post of honor is a private Station." With much esteem etc.

[59] Gov. John Jay, of New York.
[60] Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth and Elias Boudinot.
[61] Stephen Higginson, of Boston, Mass.

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*To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: Not having heard from you, for sometime, I am desirous of knowing whether you have purchased any of my Berckley or Frederick leases? and if not, whether the prospect of doing it is so favorable, as to amount almost to a certainty of accomplishing the measure? If neither I desire you would give up the idea of purchasing and let me have the money you have collected with the names of the persons from whom it has been received; as I am in want, and have only deprived myself of the use of it from the hope of its laying the foundation of a better annuity; which my heavy expenditures very much need.

Unless business should require my attendance at the Seat of government sooner, it is probable I shall remain at this place until the end of September. With great esteem and regard, and best wishes to Mrs. Lewis in which your Aunt &ca. unite I remain etc.[62]

To THE BOSTON SELECTMEN[63]

[United States, July 28, 1795.]

Gentlemen: In every act of my administration, I have sought the happiness of my fellow-citizens. My system for the attainment of this object has uniformly been to overlook all personal, local and partial considerations: to contemplate the United States, as one great whole: to confide, that sudden impressions, when erroneous, would yield to candid reflection: and to consult only the substantial and permanent interests of our country.

[62] From a photostat of the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

[63] Ezekiel Price, Thomas Walley, William Bordman, Ebenezer Seaver, Thomas Crafts, Thomas Edwards, William Little, William Scollay, and Jesse Putnam.

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Nor have I departed from this line of conduct, on the occasion, which has produced the resolutions, contained in your letter of the 13 [instt.]

Without a predilection for my own judgment, I have weighed with attention every argument, which has at any time been brought into view. But the constitution is the guide, which I never will[64] abandon. It has assigned to the President the power of making treaties, with the advice and consent of the senate. It was doubtless supposed that these two branches of government would combine, without passion, [and with the best means of information], those facts and principles upon which the success of our foreign relations will always depend: that they ought not to substitute for their own conviction the opinions of others; or to scorn expect[65] truth thro' any channel but that of a temperate and well-informed investigation.

Under this persuasion, I have resolved on the manner of executing the duty now before me. To the high responsibility, attached to it, I freely submit; and you, gentlemen, are at liberty to make these sentiments known, as the grounds of my procedure. While I feel the most lively gratitude for the many instances of approbation from my country; I can no otherwise deserve it, than by obeying the dictates of my conscience. With due respect, &c.[66]

[64] The "Letter Book" copy has "can."

[65] The draft is doubtful at this point. In addition to the words "scorn" and "expect," the word "follow" is crossed off, though underscored in pencil, apparently by the Attorney General. The "Letter Book" copy has the word "seek."

[66] The draft is in the writing of Edmund Randolph. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. W. Bradford and Oliver Wolcott have approved this draft; Bradford in pencil. T. Pickering has approved; but offered a substitute at one point.

Addresses of disapprobation of Jay's Treaty, urging that it be not ratified, poured in upon the President from cities, towns, and counties in nearly every State. The earliest being that from the Selectmen of Boston, dated July 13, and the last coming from the citizens of Lexington, Ky., in their meeting of September 8 (forwarded September 10). To most of these addresses the same answer was returned as that to the Boston Selectmen, July 28. The text of the addresses, with the President's answers, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your private letters of the 24th. and 25th. instant have been received, and you will learn by the official letter of this date, my determination of returning to Philadelphia after monday, if nothing in the interem casts up, to render it unnecessary.

I am excited to this resolution by the violent, and extraordinary proceedings which have, and are about taking place, in

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On the "Letter Book" copy of the resolutions of the citizens of Petersburg, Va., August 1, Washington has noted: "Tenor indecent No answer returned."

On the "Letter Book" copy of the resolutions of the inhabitants of Bordentown, Crosswicks, Black Horse, and Reckless Town, N. J., Washington has noted: "No answer given. The Address too rude to merit one." The copyist's note to resolutions of the citizens of Laurens County, S. C., is "The foregoing Resolutions &ca. were sent under a blank cover, by (it is supposed) Jno. Matthews Esqr. No notice has been taken of them."

On the "Letter Book" copy of the remonstrance and petition of the citizens of Scott County, Ky., August 25, Washington has noted: "The Ignorance and indecency of these proceedings forbad an answr."

On the "Letter Book" copy of the address from the citizens of Lexington, Ky., Washington has noted: "It would now [be] out of time to answr this address when recd Novr. Indecent besides."

The proceedings of the citizens of Richmond County, Ga., September 1, were sent to Edmund Randolph, Secretary of State, September 4, and answered by Timothy Pickering, September 30. These proceedings and the answer thereto are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

In the *Washington Papers*, under date of Aug. 12, 1795, is the draft of the general answer, returned to most of these protests against the ratification of the treaty. It is in the writing of Edmund Randolph and reads: "I have received your letter of the covering resolutions of a meeting in New York. As the answer, which I have given on a similar occasion to the selectmen of Boston is applicable to those resolutions, I think it proper to transmit a copy thereof to you. To Philadelphia instead of *resolutions* say 'the address.' Instead of *New-York* say 'Philadelphia' Instead of *those resolutions* say 'that address.'" In Washington's writing is added: "Answers have been sent to The Selectmen of Boston

Doctr. Shippen, Chairman of the Meeting in Phila. dated 12th. Augt.

Colo Wm. S. Smith Do . . Do	N. York	12th. Aug.
Mr. Alexr Dunscomb. Mayor	Richmond	Do. Do.
David McMechen and others	Baltimore	Do. Do.
Jonathan Warner	Portsmouth, N. H.	Do. Do.
Colo M. Furman	Trenton	14. Augt.
Jno. Dickinson Esqr. and others	Wilmington, Del.	14 Augt.
Honble. Jno Mathews	Charleston, S. C.	14. Do."

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the Northern parts of the union; and may be expected in the Southern: because I think that the memorial;[67] the ratification;[68] and the instructions,[69] which are framing; are of such vast magnitude as not only to require great individual consideration, but a solemn conjunct revision. The latter could not happen if you were to come to this place; nor would there be that source of information to be had as is to be found at, and is continually flowing to, the seat of government: and besides, in the course of deliberating on these great matters, the examination of official papers may, more than probable, be found essential, and these could be resorted to no where else.

To leave home so *soon* will be inconvenient; a month hence would have been otherwise; and was, as I hinted to you before I left the City, in contemplation by me, for the purpose of Mrs. Washington's remaining here until November, when I intended to come back for her. But whilst I am in office, I shall never suffer private convenience to interfere with what I conceive to be my official duties.

---

[67] Randolph's letter to John Jay, Aug. 16, 1795, in the *Hamilton Papers*, in the Library of Congress, states that about a week after Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon "I sent down to him . . . the draught of a memorial to Mr. Hammond upon the subject of the treaty. . . . The memorial declared, that the President would ratify, upon the provision order being laid aside: that if this was not done, the President would take the subject into farther consideration: that the doing of this should be the *only* obstacle to the pursuing the advice of the Senate: that in order however to produce perfect cordiality, the king was *invited* 1. to provide by some clear distinction against the impressment of our citizens: 2. to reconsider the compensation of the negroes: 3. to cause the execution of the 7th article to be expedited and the expence thereof lessened: 4. to give instructions against the vexations of privateers and the rigours of some of the American admiraltics. . . . I ought to add, that the reason why a memorial was at all thought of, was, that the President at first believed (as I confess I did) that he could not ratify, until the new suspending article was agreed to by the British King. It thereby became necessary to assure him in writing, that we affected no delays; and meant to ratify, if the provision order was abolished."

[68] The ratification was the draft of the form to be used for Jay's Treaty. Its official date was Aug. 14, 1795. Great Britain ratified the treaty, Oct. 28, 1795, and the treaty was proclaimed in effect by the President in his proclamation of Feb. 26, 1796.

[69] The instructions were those forwarded to the United States Minister to Great Britain, covering the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty. They were not signed by the President.

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I view the opposition which the treaty is receiving from the meetings in different parts of the Union in a very serious light. Not because there is *more* weight in *any* of the objections which are made to it, than were foreseen at first; for there are *none* in *some* of them; and *gross* misrepresentations in *others*. Nor as it respects myself personally, for this shall have no influence on my conduct; plainly perceiving, and I am accordingly preparing my mind for, the obloquy which disappointment and malice are collecting to heap upon my character. But I am alarmed on acct. of the effect it may have on, and the advantage the French government may be disposed to make of, the spirit which is at work; to cherish a belief in them, that the treaty is calculated to favor G. Britain at their expence. Whether they believe, or disbelieve these tales, the effect it will have upon the nation, will be nearly the same: for whilst they are at war with that Power, or so long as the animosity between the two nations exists, it will, no matter at whose expence, be their policy, and it is feared it will be their conduct, to prevent us from being on good terms with G. Britain, or from her deriving any advantages from our commerce which they can prevent, however much we may be benefited thereby, ourselves. To what length this policy and interest may carry them, is problamatical; but when they see the people of this Country divided, and such a violent opposition given to the measures of their own government, pretend[ed]ly in their favor, it may be extremely embarrassing, to say no more of it.

To sum the whole up in a few words, I have never, since I have been in the Administration of the government, seen a crisis wch, in my judgment, has been so pregnant of interesting events; nor one from which more is to be apprehended; whether viewed on one side, or the other. From New York there now is, and I am told will further be, a counter current; but how formidable it may appear, I know not; if the same

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does not take place at Boston and other towns, it will afford but too strong evidence that the opposition is, in a manner, universal or that those of different sentiments are supine or intimidated which would make the ratification a very serious business indeed. But as it respects the French, even counter resolutions would, for the reasons I have already given, do little more than weaken, in a small degree, the effect those of the other complexion would have.

I have written, and do now enclose, the letter (the draught of which was approved by the heads of departments and the Atty Genl) to the Selectmen of the town of Boston; but if new lights have been shed upon the subject since it was agreed to, or if upon reconsideration any alteration should be deemed necessary, it being open for your perusal, I request you to detain it until I see you. Let me also request that the same attention may be given to the draught of a letter to Portsmouth, and to the chamber of Commerce at New York, as was recommended on that occasion. With sincere esteem &c.

PS. To the papers sent, I add Chancellor Livingston's letter;[70] and wish, if it is best to give it an answer, that one may be prepared. Altho' this letter is a hurried (for Mr. Dandridge is not yet arrived and I have no assistance) as well as a private one, I have no objection to the confidential officers seeing it; and wish them to prepare their minds on the several subjects mentioned therein against I arrive. [H. S. P.]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

Sir: The contents of your Letters of the 21st and 24 Inst. which I received by Monday's post, the importance of some

[70] Of July 8. Sparks prints it in his *Correspondence of the American Revolution*, vol. 4. The original is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Robert R. Livingston, Aug. 20, 1795, *post*.)

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of their enclosures, and the purturbed state of men's minds respecting the late treaty with Gr: Britain together with the proceedings in some of the principal towns to embarrass the business, have determined me to repair to the Seat of Government, if I hear nothing from you between this and monday next to render it unnecessary. Two reasons delay my setting out previous to that day; the first is, the uncertainty I shall be in, until I hear from you subsequently to your receipt of my Letter of the 24 instant, whether you may not be on the road yourself: and 2d. because a general meeting of the Potomac Compy, on important business, is to be held in Alexandria on Monday next, at which I am much pressed to be.

The proclamation[71] is herewith enclosed. along with it you will receive the Resolutions of the town of Portsmouth (New: Hampe.) similar to those of Boston and New York; and the counter proceedings of the Chamber of Commerce in the last mentioned place, to those which I forwarded to you, from thence, by the Mail of Tuesday. I also return, under cover of this Letter, the draft of the memorial[72] and the rough of a ratification. These are very important papers, and, with the Instructions which follow, will require great attention and consideration, and is the primary cause of my returning to Philada. Mr. Jaudenes will, in spite of himself, be arrogant and inconsistent. Perhaps a closing Letter to him on the subject of negotiation may not be amiss. Mr. Monroe's letter, and the enclosures are among the papers which I send you. With esteem, &c.

P. S. Mr. Adet's answer is such an one as I expected. Do with the French letter herewith enclosed, whatsoever is proper.[73]

[71] Of July 10, pardoning certain of the insurgents in western Pennsylvania. Sparks states that it was not published until August 6. See p. 232.

[72] See note 67 to Washington's private letter to the Secretary of State, July 29, 1795, *ante*.

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

Dear Sir: I am obliged to you for the acct. given, in your letter of the 27th. of the meeting which was had in the State house yard, the Saturday before;[74] and such information as you may receive, and can rely upon, respecting the sentiments of the People of that city, and other places, relative to the treaty between this country and G Britain I shall receive with satisfaction.

It is an interesting subject; and to know the sense of the people generally on it, or that of cool and dispassionate men who are judges of the subject, without prejudice or partiality, would be very agreeable to me. With esteem etc.[75]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

Gentlemen: On friday last I received your several dispatches with different signatures; and should have answered them by Monday's post; but Doctr. Thornton promising to assign his reasons for the dissent he had given to the proposed regulations respecting wharves and water lots, I postponed giving any opinion thereon until I should receive these, which I did yesterday morning. Since which I have been so extremely hurried with one dispatch and another, that I have not been able to attend to the business of the federal city.

I propose to be in Alexandria on Monday, and shall proceed to George town in the afternoon, when, or very early next

[74] The meeting of a number of citizens of Philadelphia, which resulted in a protest to the President, July 25.

[75] From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1920–21.

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morning, I will meet you and decide upon all the matters referred to. Gentlemen Yr. etc.[76]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

Gentlemen: I was duly favored wth your letter of the 24th. instant, with its enclosures. As you have called upon Mr. Greenleaf to come forward and substantiate the charges he has exhibited agt. you, in his letter to the Secretary of State (copy of which you sent me) I shall wait the issue, and do no more, at this time, than to acknowledge of your dispatch. With esteem etc.[77]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

Gentlemen: The memorial dated the 24th inst. subscribed by Messrs. Scott and White, with other papers relating to water lots and for regulating the building of wharves in the federal City, came duly to hand, as did Dr. Thornton's letter of the same date, informing me that he differed in some respects from his colleagues on these topics; but that he had not time, by that post, to assign his reasons for doing so. By the post on Monday I received them; since which I have given the whole subject the best consideration the pressure of other dispatches would enable me to do. The result is, to leave the matter where the Maryland Act has placed it, to the decision of the Commissioners.

[76] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[77] From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

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I perceive no material difference in *your* opinions; nor are any of them wide of mine; which, to avoid detail, may be summed up in a few words, to let the holders of the grounds adjacent to the wall do as they please with the water opposite to them, under the following restrictions. 1st. that they shall not injure the navigation by the ex[ten]tion of their wharves; 2dly that they shall not interrupt by any buildings thereon, *any* of the streets, north and south, or East and west, if it be practicable to avoid it. 3dly that they shall be subject to general, or at least proper regulations. In complying with the first no difficulty will occur; and if the second can be accomplished, without involving inconveniences, and an expense of which I have not an accurate knowledge; neither the health nor the beauty of the City would be affected, if the wharves and the buildings thereon were to extend to the channels of both waters; which, in time, I have no doubt will be the case, for on commerce, more than to any other cause, the city must depend for its growth and importance. Whatever may be the determination of the board on these points, the sooner they are announced to the public the better; as an idea has gone forth not favorable or pleasing to the seekers of water lots.

I have no desire myself to alter the appropriation of any of the public squares; I only wished that the propriety of their designation might be well considered before they were ultimately fixed. And for the reasons which have been assigned, strengthened by the Report of Mr. Dermot, I approve of the site for the Mint. The Square is, I conceive, sufficiently large, and the water is essential.

In a letter received from the Secy. of State, in answer to one I wrote him from hence respecting the funds of the City, and a representation to be made thereon to Messrs. Morris and Nicholson, he replies thus in a letter dated the 25th. instant,

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Morris and Nicholson inform me that a part of their arrearages will be immediately paid up; and that they have made a provision for furnishing the balance in a short time.

I am etc.[78]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 20th and 21st. Instt. found me at this place, after a hot and disagreeable ride.

As the measures of the government, respecting the treaty, were taken before I left Philadelphia, something more imperious than has yet appeared, must turn up to occasion a change. Still, it is very desirable to ascertain, if possible, after the paroxysm of the fever is a little abated, what the real temper of the people is, concerning it; for at present the cry against the Treaty is like that against a mad-dog; and every one, in a manner, seems engaged in running it down.

That it has received the most tortured interpretation, and that the writings agt. it (which are very industriously circulated) are pregnant of the most abominable mis-representations, admits of no doubt; yet, there are to be found, so far as my information extends, many well disposed men who conceive, that in the settlement of *old* disputes, a proper regard to reciprocal justice does not appear in the Treaty; whilst others, also well enough affected to the government, are of opinion that to have had *no* commercial treaty would have been better, for this country, than the restricted one, agreed to; inasmuch, say they, the nature of our Exports, and imports (without any extra: or

[78] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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violent measures) would have forced, or led to a more adequate intercourse between the two nations; without any of those shackles which the treaty has imposed. In a word, that as our *exports* consist chiefly of *provisions* and *raw materials,* which to the manufacturers in G. Britain, and to their Islands in the West Indies, affords employment and food; they must have had them on *our* terms, if they were not to be obtained on their *own;* whilst the *imports* of this country, offers the best mart for their fabricks; and, of course, is the principal support of their manufacturers: But the string which is most played on, because it strikes with most force the popular ear, is the violation, as they term it, of our engagements with France; or in other words, the prediliction shown by that instrument to G. Britain at the expence of the French nation.

The consequences of which are more to be apprehended than any, which are likely to flow from other causes, as ground of opposition; because, whether the fact is, in *any* degree true, or not, it is the interest of the French (whilst the animosity, or jealousies betwn. the two nations exist) to avail themselves of such a spirit, to keep *us* and *G. Britain* at variance; and they will, in my opinion, accordingly do it. To what *length* their policy may induce them to carry matters, is too much in embryo at this moment to decide: but I predict much embarrassment to the government therefrom, and in my opinion, too much pains cannot be taken by those who speak, or write, in favor of the treaty, to place this matter in its true light.

I have seen with pleasure, that a writer in one of the New York papers under the Signature of Camillus,[79] has promised to answer, or rather to defend the treaty, which has been made

[79] The first number of "Camillus," who was Hamilton himself, was dated July 22, 1795, and appeared in *The Argus, and* [Thomas] *Greenleaf's New Daily Advertiser* of New York City.

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with G. Britain. To judge of this work from the first number, which I have seen, I auger well of the performance; and shall expect to see the subject handled in a clear, distinct and satisfactory manner: but if measures are not adopted for its dissimination a few only will derive lights from the knowledge, or labour of the author; whilst the opposition pieces will spread their poison in all directions; and Congress, more than probable, will assemble with the unfavorable impressions of their constituents. The difference of conduct between the friends, and foes of order, and good government, is in nothg. more striking than that, the latter are always working, like bees, to distil their poison; whilst the former, depending, often times *too much,* and *too long* upon the sense, and good dispositions of the people to work conviction, neglect the means of effecting it. With sincere esteem and regard I am your Affecte.[80]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 31, 1795.

My dear Sir: On Wednesday evening, I sent the packet, now under cover with this, to the Post-Office in Alexandria; to be forwarded next morning at the usual hour (4 O clock) by the Baltimore mail; but behold! when, my letter bag was brought back from the Office and emptied I not only got those which were addressed to me, among which yrs. of the 27th was one, but those also wch. I had sent up the evening before.

I have to regret this blunder of the Postmr. on acct. of the enclosures; some of which I wished to have got to your hands without delay; that they might have undergone the consideration,

[80] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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and acting upon, which was suggested in the letter accompanying them. On another acct, I am not sorry for the return of the Packet to you; as I resolved, thereupon and readg. some letters wch. I recd. at the sametime to wait your acknowledgment of the receipt of my letter of the 24th. instt. before I would set out; as I should, thereby, be placed on a certainty whether your journey hither, or mine to Philadelphia, would, under all circumstances, be deemed most eligable; or whether the business could not be equally well done without either: repeating now, what I did in my letter of the 24th, that I do not require more than a days notice to repair to the Seat of Government; and that if you, and the confidential Officers with you, are not clear in the measures which are best to be pursued in the several mattrs. mentioned in my last, my own opinion is, and for the reasons there given, that difficult and intricate, or delicate questions had better be settled there, where the streams of information are continually flowing in, and that I would set out accordingly.[81]

[81] Randolph wrote to Washington: "July 31, 1795. 10 o'Clock. Sir, The Secretaries of the Treasury and War departments are now with me; and we concur in thinking it expedient, that, if possible, you should return for a few days to the seat of Government. Nothing, but the general crisis of public affairs, leads to this recommendation; and it may be important, that you should do some act in consequence of the communications, expected from Mr Hammond, who will sail shortly." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. Hammond had been recalled, and in a private letter to Washington, also of July 31, Pickering wrote: "Mr. Hammond has not, as yet, communicated any part of his late advices from England; but I expect them hourly." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. Pickering also wrote Washington on July 31: "I learn that Mr. Hammond has received letters of recall; and that he expects to depart in three weeks. I am disposed to believe, from accidental intimations, that before his departure some useful and perhaps very important arrangements may be made to facilitate the compliance with the condition on which the advice of the Senate for ratifying the treaty was suspended; and possibly for expediting the execution of that part of it which respects the posts. . . . On the subject of the treaty I confess that I feel extreme solicitude; and for a *special reason* which can be communicated to you only in person. I entreat therefore that you will return with all convenient speed to the seat of Government. In the mean time, for the reason above referred to, I pray you to decide on no important political measure, in whatever form it may be presented to you. . . . (This letter is for your own eye alone)." Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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To be wise and temperate, as well as firm, the crisis most eminently calls for; for there is too much reason to believe, from the pains which have been taken before, at, and since the advice of the Senate respecting the treaty that the prejudices against it are more extensive than is generally imagined. This, I have lately understood to be the case from men in this quartr. who are of no party, but well disposed to the present Administration. How shd. it be otherwise? when no stone has been left unturned that could impress on the minds of the people the most arrant misrepresentation of facts; that their rights have not only been *neglected,* but absolutely *sold.* That there are *no* reciprocal advantages in the treaty; that the benefits are all on the side of G. Britain; and, what seems to have had more weight with them than all the rest and most pressed is that the treaty is made with design to oppress the French, in open violation of our treaty with that nation, and contrary too to every principle of gratitude and sound policy. In time when passion shall have yielded to sober reason, the current may possibly turn; but in the meanwhile this government in relation to France and England may be compared to a ship between the rocks of Sylla and charibdas. If the Treaty is ratified the partisans of the French (or rather of War and confusion) will excite them to hostile measures, or at least to unfriendly Sentiments; if it is not, there is no foreseeing *all* the consequences which may follow, as it respts. G. B.

It is not to be inferred from hence that I am, or shall be disposed to quit the ground I have taken, unless circumstances more imperious than have yet come to my knowledge should compel it; for there is but one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily. but these things are mentd. to shew that a close investigation of the subjt. is more than ever necessary; and that they are strong evidences of the necessity of

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the most circumspect conduct in carrying the determn. of government into effect with prudence as it respects our own people and with every exertion to produce a change for the better from G. B.

The memorial seems well designed, to answer the end proposed; and by the time it is revised, and new dressed, you will, probably, (either in the resolutions, which are or will be handed to me or in the Newspaper publications wch. you promised to be attentive to) have seen all the objections against the treaty which have any real force in them; and which may be fit subjects for representation in the memorial or in the instructions, or both. But how much longer the presentation of the memorial can be delayed without exciting unpleasant sensations here, or involving serious evils elsewhere you, who are at the scene of information and action can decide better than I. In a matter, however, so interesting and pregnant of consequences as this treaty, there ought to be no precipitation; but on the contrary every step shd. be explored before it is taken, and every word weighed before it is uttered, or delivered in writing.

The form of the ratification[82] requires more diplomatic experience and legal knowledge than I possess or have the means of acquiring at this place and therefore I shall say nothing about it. I am &c.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, August 3, 1795.

Dear Sir: The enclosed was written, as you will perceive, on the 29th. Ulto; and with many other letters, was sent to the Post

[82] The text of the form of ratification for Jay's Treaty is printed by Hunter Miller in his *Treaties and Other International Acts, etc.* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931). Miller notes that no signed original of Jay's Treaty is in the Department of State; that Jay sent two signed treaties, but one was lost in transit and the one which came safe was returned, curiously enough, to Great Britain along with the ratification.

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Office in Alexandria; to proceed with the Northern Mail next morning. But the blundering Post master of that place, in putting the letters addressed *to*, put all the letters *from me*, into my own bag: of course they were returned to me. Since which the unusual (at almost any season of the year), and violent rains which have fallen, have given such interruption to the Post, as to detain my letters 'till this time: and altho' I am now sending them to the Post Office, I have little expectation of their proceeding tomorrow; the waters being yet very high, and the bridges all gone. In short, the damage of *every* sort, is very great in these parts. Your always[88]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 3, 1795.

Dear Sir: No mail, at two oclock yesterday, had been received in Alexandria from Philadelphia since the 29th Ulto. I am sending up this afternoon to see if the expected mail of this day is in; altho' I have little hope of it, as the violence, and continuance of the rains since thursday last, has been such, in these parts, as to sweep every thing before it; and to do great damage to the gathered and growing grain; as well as other things. Of course, by swelling the waters, and carrying away bridges, the intercourse between one place and another (where these were) has been entirely cut off. This circumstance, added to the inexcusable blunder of the Postmaster in Alexandria, will prevent my dispatches (wch. ought to have been in Phila. on Saturday last) from getting to your hands until thursday next, at soonest.

To these impediments is to be attributed, I presume, the non receptn. of the Baltimore resolutions: for resolutions, I am told, have been passed at that place. And the like may be expected

[88] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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from Richmond; a meeting having been had there also, at which Mr. Wythe, it is said, was seated as moderator, by chance, more than design, it is added. A queer chance this, for the Chancellor of a State.

All these things do not shake my determination with respect to the proposed ratification; nor will they, unless something more imperious and unknown to me, should, in the judgment of yourself, and the gentlemen with you, make it necessary and advisable for me to pause. But let me again, repeat my desire, that as fast as these kind of Resolutions, or addresses (call them what you will) appear in the Papers, pro, or con, that answers, if thought advisable, may be draughted, and sent to me (approved by all of you) without waiting for individual applications on each one, seperately, for this wd. occasion a considerable lapse of time in the first place; and in the second, would be saving me some writing on this subject; wch. is an object, as I have no aid. (Mr. Dandridge being with his friends in New Kent). I am etc.[84]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1795.

Dear Sir: The messenger, who was sent yesterday afternoon to the Postoffice in Alexandria, returned without letters: the Mails not having arrived.

Some hours after my Messenger was dispatched for Alexandria, the Richmond production was delivered to me by Express: sent for that purpose. They have out gone all that has gone before them: but the meeting, according to the acct. given by the Express, was not numerous; and some of the principal characters not in town.

[84] The draft of this letter, which is the writing of Washington, marks it "(Private)."

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I send the proceedings to Alexandria today, to go on by the first Mail, to be acted upon as mentioned in former letters. I am etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1795.

My dear Sir: It is my intention, at present, to be in George town to morrow; but as I have been sending to the Post-Office in Alexandria every day since friday last, for letters, without having received any from the Officers of Government; and may, by this days Mail find such an accumulation of them, as to make it impracticable for me to give them proper attention, prepare answers against Saturday morning, and be on business in George town at the sametime;[85] I now send you a power of Attorney to act for me (if I should not be there) in the latter case. In haste I am etc. [H.L.]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Charlestown,[86] August 9, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: The day before I left home, I rode by the field at Dogue-run called Davy's field, and intended to have had some further conversation with you on the subject of a second Wheat field at that place this seeding time; but the suddenness of my departure prevented it.

In looking at the field above mentioned, it did not strike me as sufficient, in addition to No 5 for a wheaten crop at that farm (if more can be got in, advanced as the Season is) 1st because the quantity of Acres in it is too small; and 2dly because part of

[85] Washington left Mount Vernon for Philadelphia, August 6, attended the meeting of the Potomac Company at Georgetown and spent the night at Suter's Tavern. He reached Philadelphia August 11 in time for dinner.

[86] Cecil County, Md.

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it is very poor, and turning in the grass, in places, would be difficult; without which attempting it at all, at this late hour, could not be justified upon any true principle of husbandry. for these reasons, I intended to have told you, that in my opinion, No 7 ought to be preferred; provided there be a moral certainty of getting it seeded in good time; and the work well done.

If you attempt this field, I have been considering further, whether it wd not be better to plow the same way it was laid last; but to make the parting furrow where the ridge now is, the work, I am confident, will be better executed; and the growth now on it, turned in with more truth; and to do this carefully, is all in all; for if the sward, or one furrow is not turned immediately into the other, and an even face at top, made with the under earth; that kind of husbandry, so strongly recommended on a clover lay and may succeed with other grasses, would be entirely defeated: good plowing therefore is essential; and I would have you sow, as fast as you plow; to be well harrowed, but not so as to bring the grass up again; for it is the manure, occasioned by the fermentation and rotting of it, that is to benefit the land, and to produce the Wheat.

The storms of wind and rain, seems to have been more severe in these parts than with you; notwithstanding, I find seeding has begun on the other side Susquehanna in two or three places. The roads are miserably torn up, and the Mill dams, bridges, &ca. almost universally carried away.

Among other reasons for preferring No 7 at Dogue-run to what is called Davys field, is, because I see your chance for wheat next year is hurt by the laying down of the Corn, the delay it has necessarily occasioned in sowing, and the consequent grassiness of the fields from that circumstance; and the inability of keeping them clean with so much rain. I am satisfied

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your forward Corn must be first taken from the grd before it can be sown: This also will be hurtful to the next years wheat but this is to be preferred to any measures which may injure the Corn at this time.

Do not forget to plow in some of your greenest Buck wheat, and sow wheat thereon immediately, for an experiment; if this should answer well, it would be proper, always to sow the Buck wheat (intended for manure) at such a period as to sow wheat thereon when it is not more than six or eight inches high, as is done upon a clover lay. But if this mode is found to succeed, the Buck wheat ought to be sown thick, otherwise it would not afford much improvement to the soil.

If the money is due for the flour sold let it be collected, and deposited in the Alexandria Bank. I am your friend &ca.[87]

*To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

United States, August 12, 1795.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 20th. of July, covering resolutions of a meeting in New York.

As the answer, which I have given on a similar occasion to the Selectmen of Boston[88] is applicable to those resolutions, I think it proper to transmit a copy thereof to you.

With due respect etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, August 12, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I forgot to ask you, what prospect there was of your saving clover seed, sufficient for your next years purposes?

[87] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[88] See Washington's letter to the Boston Selectmen, July 28, 1795, *ante*.

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If it is a good one, there will be no occasion of buying, if it is not, the sooner I am informed thereof, the better. I hope you will, not only of this kind of seed, but of all others, endeavor to save as much as will answer my own demands, as the purchase of them falls heavy upon me.

As soon as your ground, and other things are in order for it, I would have your Wheat sewing commence; and prosecuted with diligence until it is completed, as I have found that early sowing, four times out of five, has succeeded best with me. If you attempt No 7 at Dogue-run, let it be well ploughed, and in the manner mentioned in my letter from Charlestown unless reasons which do not occur to me, should render ploughing across the ridges more eligable.

Give me, in your next letter, after this gets to hand, the length, and breadth of the two pavements between the steps of the middle door and those of the end doors of the Mansion house. Measure from the outer line of stone (each way) that encloses the brick tile. I am Your friend &ca.[89]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, August 16, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter, begun on the 9th and ended on the 12th inst, with its several enclosures, came to my hands yesterday.

It is to be regretted that the frequent, and hard rains should have involved you in such difficulties. But all that can be done in cases that are not to be guarded against, or avoided, is to

[89] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

On August 15 Washington wrote briefly to Dr. William Rowley, of London, thanking him for the four volumes of his *Rational Practice of Physic*, which he presented. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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do the best under them that circumstances will admit. More ought not to be expected; and I am sure, that more is not desired by me. I fear, however, that if the forward corn is turned differently than it was by the first storm, that *all* the roots have given way, and, of course, the plant must suffer; if not perish: but of this you can judge better than I.

I am anxious to get my Wheat in the ground as soon as possible, but would not, nevertheless, sow before the ground is in order for it. It is some consolation to hear that all your Wheat and Oats are in I wish the Hay was also secured, and as free from damage as possible. That which is so much sanded, will be fit for little, or nothing, unless some method can be devised of threshing, or beating the sand of(f), before it is fed.

As Donaldson is going away, I think it best to decide, at once, to take the Carpenter recommended by my nephew Colo Wm Washington; although his allowances are high, particularly in Corn, for I cannot conceive how he is to consume 15 barrels of Corn in addition to the flour. However, you will want a man to carry on my Carpentering business; and if from his appearance, and talking to him, you think he will answer, engage him positively, and firmly. If he is competent to do Mill-work, Wheel-work, and is a tolerable plain Joiner, he will be very useful; as my buildings are going very much to decay. He may have the house and garden that Donaldson occupies, as his year will have expired before the first of November. Donaldson therefore must be taken at his word, as there is no other house and Garden that John Neale, the person offering, can have but that; and the latter (if he is such a man as I conceive him to be, from the character given of him) will be of more service to me than the former. I wish you well and am Your friend.[90]

[90] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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*To THE SECRETARIES OF THE TREASURY, AND WAR[91]

[August 12–18, 1795.][92]

At what time should Mr. F——ts letter[93] be made known to Mr. R——?[94]

What will be the best mode of doing it? In presence of the Secs and A: Genl

If the explanations given by the latter, are not satisfactory, whether, besides removal, are any other measures proper to be taken? and what?

Would an application to Mr A——[95] to see the paragraphs in Nos 3 and 6, alluded to in F——ts letter, be proper? These might condemn, or acquit, unequivocally and if innocent whether R will not apply for them if I do not?

If upon the Investigation of this subject, it should appear less dark than at present, but not so clear as to restore confidence, and a continuance in Office; In what light, and on what ground is the removal to appear to the public?

What immediate steps are necessary to be taken, so soon as the removal of R is resolved on; if that should be the case, with respect to the Archives in that Office?

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[91] These queries may also have been submitted to the Attorney General.

[92] Ford prints this document at the end of August, 1795.

[93] Fauchet's despatch No. 10, to the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs of France, dated 10 Brumaire (Oct. 31, 1794), with inclosures, of which No. 6 was the most important. The despatch was intercepted by the British and immediately sent to Hammond, who disclosed it to Wolcott. It gave a confused and gossipy account of Randolph having approached Fauchet, in the matter of the Western, or Whiskey Insurrection, involving a strengthening of the republican, or French party, in the United States, as opposed to the Hamiltonian influences. Use of money was involved as a means of strengthening Randolph's support of a pacific settlement of the insurrection; otherwise the result would be the defeat or crushing of the republicans (or French party) by military force.

[94] Fauchet's letter was handed to Randolph by the President, on the morning of August 19, in the presence of Wolcott, Pickering, and Bradford.

[95] Pierre Auguste Adet.

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If the letter of F——t is the only evidence, and that thought sufficient to the removal what would be the consequence of giving that letter to the public, without any comment, as the ground on which the measure of the Executive, respecting the removal, is founded? It wd speak for itself. A part, without the whole, might be charged with unfairness. The public would expect reasons for the sudden removal of so high an Officer, and it will be found not easy to avoid saying too little, or too much, upon such an occasion: as it is not to be expected that the removed Officer, will acquiesce without attempting a justification; or at least to do away by explantions the sting of the letter of accusation; unless he was let down easily. To do which, I see no way: for if he is guilty of what is charged, he merits *no* favor; and if he is not, he will accept of none. and it is not difficult to perceive what turn *he* and his friends will give the act, namely, that his friendship for the French nation, and his opposition to a compleat ratification have been the causes.[96] [C. H. S.]

*To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, August 20, 1795.

Sir: Your resignation of the Office of State, is received.[97]

Candour induces me to give you, in a few words, the following narrative of facts. The letter from Mr. Fauchet, with the contents of which you were made acquainted yesterday, was as you supposed, an interscepted one. It was sent by Lord Grenville to Mr. Hammond; by him put into the hands of the

[96] The treaty not having been signed until Nov. 19, 1794, and Fauchet's despatch being dated Oct. 31, 1794, Washington was mistaken in believing Randolph's opposition to ratifying could be advanced as an explanation of his dismissal. Jay's Treaty had nothing whatever to do with Fauchet's despatch. It was later dragged into the affair.

[97] Randolph's letter of resignation (August 19) is in the *Washington Papers*. It is indorsed by Washington: "recd. the 20th. abt noon."

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Secretary of the Treasury; by him shewn to the Secretary of War and the Attorney General; and a translation there of was made by the former, for me.

At the time Mr. Hammond delivered the letter, he requested of Mr. Wolcott an attested copy, which was accordingly made by Mr. Thornton, his late Secretary; and which is understood to remain at present with Mr. Bond.[98] Whether it is known to others, I am unable to decide.

Whilst you are in pursuit of means to remove the strong suspicions arising from this letter, no disclosure of its contents will be made by me; and I will enjoin the same on the public officers who are acquainted with the purport of it; unless something shall appear to render an explanation necessary on the part of Government; of which I will be the judge.

A Copy of Mr. Fauchets letter shall be sent to you. No. 6, referred to therein I have never seen.[99]

To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, August 20, 1795.

[Dr. Sir: I recd. your favor dated the 8th of July (on the subject of the treaty with G B)[1] the day preceeding my departure for Mount Vernon; from whence I intended to have acknowledged the receipt of it: but so many letters of a public nature were poured upon me at that place, and the urgency of the business in which I have since been engaged, have prevented my doing it till now.]

[98] George Bond. He was chief clerk of the Department of State.

[99] From the group of papers entitled "Randolph's Vindication" in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

Timothy Pickering performed the duties of Secretary of State *ad interim* from Aug. 19 to Dec. 10, 1795.

[1] In the *Washington Papers*.

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Aiming only to promote and secure the true interests of my country, I willingly receive information concerning those interests from my fellow citizens. The opinions and reasonings of enlightened men are particularly acceptable: but, as it happens in other matters, so in this, they are extremely variant. You deem the treaty palpably defective and pregnant with evils: others think it contains substantial good. For myself, I freely own that I cannot discern in it the mischiefs you anticipate: on the contrary, altho' it does not rise to all our wishes, yet it appears to me calculated to procure to the United States such advantages as entitle it to our acceptance. My final act[2] of course conforms to this opinion.

I feel myself greatly obliged by your expressions of respect, esteem and attachment: and if the unvarying integrity of my views have deserved them, they will not now be withdrawn: for I can merit your good opinion and the general approbation of my fellow citizens only by a conscientious discharge of what I conceive to be my duty. [With great esteem and regard, I am &c.][3]

To THE CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA

August 20, 1795.

Gentlemen: I Receive, with great sensibility, your address on the subject of the Treaty lately negociated between the United State and Great Britain, expressing your confidence in the constituted authorities, and the concurrence of your opinions with their determinations, on this highly important subject. Such sentiments, deliberately formed, and proceeding from men whose interests are more immediately concerned than those of

[2] Ratification of the treaty, Aug. 14, 1795.

[3] The draft is in the writing of Timothy Pickering. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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any other classes of my fellow Citizens, cannot fail to strengthen that just confidence in the rectitude of public measures, which is essential to the general welfare.[4]

*To THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Philadelphia, August 20, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th. instt. with its enclosures. They contain a great deal of interesting matter; and No 9 discloses much important information, and political foresight. For this proof of your kindness, and confidence, I pray you to accept my best, and most cordial thanks.

Mr. John Adams,[5] your son, must not think of retiring from the walk he is now in: his prospects if he pursues it are fair: and I shall be much mistaken, if in as short a time as can well be expected, he is not found at the head of the Diplomatique Corps, (Let the government be administered by whomsoever the people may chuse).

The embarrassments into which he was thrown by the unforeseen events which so soon took place in Holland, after he had received his first instructions, and had arrived in that Country have long since been removed. and he can be at no loss now as to the course to pursue.

Long before this letter can have reached you, my answer to the Boston resolutions will, I presume, have been published in the Gazettes of that place notwithstanding the delays it met with in getting thither; first from a mistake of the Postmaster in Alexandria; who, mixing it with the dispatches which were addressed *to me,* returned it by the messenger who carried my letters to his Office, this necessarily detained it three days;

[4] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[5] John Quincy Adams, then United States Minister to Holland.

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and the immense falls of rain, and destruction of Bridges wch. follow'd prevented all travelling for at least three days more.

Whether it was from the sparke which kindled the fire in Boston, that the flames have spread, so extensively; or whether the torch, by a pre-concerted plan, was lit ready for the explosion in all parts so soon as the advice to ratify the treaty should be announced, remains to be developed; but as the ratification thereof, agreeably to the advice of the Senate has passed from me, these meetings in opposition to the constituted authorities are as useless as they are *at all times,* improper and dangerous. My best respects to Mrs. Adams, and with sincere regard I am &c.

To COMFORT SANDS[6]

United States, August 20, 1795.

Sir: A little before my departure from Mount Vernon for Philadelphia, I received your letter of the 22d. of last month, covering the Resolutions of the New York Chamber of Commerce, relative to the Treaty lately negociated between the United States and Great Britain. My journey, and the urgent business in which I have since been engaged, have prevented an earlier acknowledgment.

While I regret the diversity of opinion which has been manifested on this subject, it is a satisfaction to learn, that the commercial part of my fellow citizens, whose interests are thought to be most directly affected, so generally consider the treaty as calculated, on the whole, to promote important advantages to our country. With due respect I am etc.[7]

[6] President of the New York City Chamber of Commerce.
[7] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, August 22, 1795.

Sir: Agreeably to your request and my promise, and as soon as it has been in my power, I send you a copy of Mr. Fauchet's letter No. 10[8] to the "Commissaire du department des relations exterieures."[9]

*To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, August 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 3d. instant; am perfectly satisfied with all your transactions with Colo. Shreve; and will ratify them whensoever the papers shall be produced.

The Sea-port towns (or rather parts of them) are involved, and are endeavouring as much as in them lye, to involve the community at large, in a violent opposition to the treaty with Great Britain (which is ratified, as far as the measure depds. upon me). The general opinion, however, as far as I am able to come at it, is, that the current is turning.

The consequences of such proceedings are more easily foreseen than prevented, if no act of the constituted authorities is suffered to go into execution unaccompanied with the poison of malignant opposition. If one *could believe* that the meetings, which have taken place, spoke the general sense of the people on the measure they are condemning, it might with truth be pronounced that it is as difficult to bear prosperity as adversity, and that no situation, or condition in life can make

[8] This copy is in "Randolph's Vindication" in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

[9] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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them happy; but being hurried, I shall not dwell on this subject, and only add that with much truth I am &c.

PS. The check for 2693 dollars and 33 Cts. on the Bank of Pennsylvania was recd. with your letter of the 3d. instt.

To THOMAS RUSSEL[10]

United States, August 22, 1795.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 13th. instant, covering a copy of the dissent of a number of the Citizens of Boston, expressing their disapprobation of the votes adopted at a late meeting of that town relative to the treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Great Britain and also a copy of the proceedings of the Boston Chamber of Commerce on the same subject.

While I regret the diversity of opinion which has been manifested on this occasion it is a satisfaction to learn that the Commercial part of my fellow Citizens, whose interests are thought to be most directly affected, so generally consider the treaty as calculated, on the whole, to procure important advantages. This sentiment I trust will be extended in proportion as the provisions of the treaty become well understood. With due respect etc.[11]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, August 23, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 16th instant, covering the weekly reports, came to my hands yesterday.

As you have begun upon what is called Davy's field at Doguerun, I do not wish any change; and when to this is added the

[10] Representing the merchants of Boston.
[11] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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high, and dry parts of the Mill swamp Corn, and one of the lots by the Barn, the quantity of ground in Wheat, at that farm, will be pretty well. But I wish your sowing had kept pace with the plowing where one plowing only is intended, and the Wheat is to be harrowed in. Let this be the case with the clover lot; and that it may have fair play, let the clover be *well* turned in by good plows and good plowmen. I wish the same had been done by the Buck Wheat, which you turned in for an experiment.

From the knowledge I have of the nature of the soil of my farms, I am very sensible that it is not in your power *now* either to get the wheat sown in such good season, or in such good order, as were to be wished: but to do the best one can, under existing circumstances, is all that can be expected. As some of your fields, however, may be drier, and in better order for sowing than others; would it not be good policy to employ the force of other farms, besides the one to which [ ][12] belongs, in getting the Wheat sowed the [ ][12] first, and go on in that manner until the whole are compleated, by that kind of management (always taking that first which is in the best order for seeding) or till all the residue are in order, that the respective force may return to its own farm. Grounds which are declining, or that have sand in them, may be in order to sow (as Muddy-hole fields for instance) when the flat land at the other places can not be touched.

I would have you, merely that it may be unequivocally ascertained whether Barley will do upon my land, sow some of it again this year. If it will, diversifying the Crops will be an advantage.

How does the Wheat which has been threshed, or tread out, appear to yield, not only in quality, but as to the stack, or its bulk of straw also? Send me two bushels of the best of the early

[12] Mutilated.

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Wheat, by the first Vessel bound to this city. I have promised it to a gentleman or two of my acquaintance in these parts. Let it be well cleaned, and certainly of the true sort. It may be consigned to Mr. Kitt, my household Steward, in case I should not be here.

I recollect that, in one of your letters in the Spring, you informed me, that you expected there would be about 900 bushls of Oats for Sale; and some time afterwds, that you had sold (I think) 300: I forgot to enquire when I was at home whether you had sold any more, or what quantity there was on hand.

Have you secured overseers for Union and Dogue-run farms? This is the season for getting such as are good. If delayed much longer you will be obliged to take indifferent ones perhaps. I wish you well, and am etc.[18]

*To THOMAS JOHNSON

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 24, 1795.

My dear Sir: The office of Secretary of State is vacant; occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Randolph. Will you accept it? You know my wishes of old, to bring you into the administran.; where then is the necessity of repeating them? No time more than the present ever required the aid of your abilities nor of the old; and proved Patriots of the country. To have yours would be pleasing to me, and I verily believe wd. be agreeable also to the community at large. It is with you to decide; if in the affirmative return to me the enclosed lettr. and I will communicate further with you on this subject the moment you

[18] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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inform me thereof. If it is in the negative, be so good as to forward the letter by the Post agreeably to its address. And at any rate write me the result of your determination as soon as you can after the receipt of this letter as I only remain here to get this, and some other matters arranged before I go to Virginia for my family.[14] With sincere esteem etc.[15]

*To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

(Private)

Triplicate

Philadelphia, August 24, 1795.

My dear Sir: The Office of Secretary of State has become vacant by the resignation of Mr. Randolph. Is the period yet arrived when the situation of your private concerns would permit you to accept it? As a preliminary mean of information, I have resorted to your letter of the 24th. of February 1794; and tho' the time there allotted for arranging them, is not *quite* accomplished; there is not much wanting of it. And I have heard, besides, that you were, in a manner, retiring from the pursuits of your profession.

It is unnecessary for me to repeat sentiments, which you have so often heard me express; respecting my wishes to see you in the Administration of the general government; the sincerity of which you can have no doubt. Equally unnecessary is it, to observe to you, that the affairs of this country are in a violent paroxysm; and that it is the duty of its old and uniform friends to assist in piloting the Vessel, in which we are all embarked, between the rocks of Sylla and charibdas; for more pains never were taken I believe, than at this moment, to throw it upon one or the other; and to embroil us in the disputes of Europe.

[14] Johnson's letter of declination, Aug. 29, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.
[15] In *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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I shall add nothing further, however, on this Subject. For nothing, I am certain I could say on it, wd. be new to a person of your observation and information. I will come therefore to the point at once. Can you, or can you not, make it comport with your convenience and inclination to accept the appointment of Secretary of State? If you answer in the affirmative, it will occur to you instantly, that an Office of such dignity and high importance, ought not to be without a head, at such a crisis as this, a moment, if it could well be avoided. If, which I should sincerely regret, you[r] answer should be in the negative, the less (for reasons which will readily occur to you) there is said of the offer, the better. In either case, be so good as to favor me with an answer as soon as your mind is made up relative thereto.[16] With very sincere esteem &c.[17]

To WILLIAM JACKSON

Philadelphia, August 25 [26?], 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of yesterday,[18] and thank you sincerely for the obliging offer therein contained. My stay here will be short; and the weight of business is pretty well got through. I am not less sensible however of your kindness on that acct. To the close attention I have paid to it, since my arrival, you must attribute my seclusion from company; except at the hours appropriated for that purpose. This cause also, has, in a manner, prevented me crossing the threshold of my own door, except at times when I have found

[16] Pinckney's letter of declination, Sept. 16, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers.*

[17] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[18] Jackson's letter of August 25 (not 24, as Washington states) is in the *Washington Papers.* In it Jackson offers his services as a secretary to the President, in the absence of Bartholomew Dandridge.

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it convenient to go to one or another of the Public Offices since I came to the city. With esteem etc.[19]

*To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, August 26, 1795.

My dear Sir: I discovered, after my letter of the 24th. with its enclosure was sent to the Post Office, that it would have to remain in Baltimore until friday, before it would be taken up by the cross Post for Fredericktown. This will occasion a delay on which I had not calculated; and as the return Post from the last mentioned place may not be immediate, the intention of this letter, is to request the favor of you, if my letter of the 24th. should reach your hands on friday (as expected, if you are at home) and you should be able to decide upon the purport of it by Sunday, that you would be so good as to dispatch your answer by an Express (the cost of wch. I will pay) to Baltimore, so as to be there in time for the mail of next morning. The letter for Genl. Pinckney will come under your cover to me, or to the Post master at Baltimore to proceed on with the Southern mail according to the result of your determination. To know which, on public and private acct. without delay is interesting to Dear Sir etc.[20]

*To JOHN MARSHALL

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 26, 1795.

Dear Sir: The Office of Attorney genl. of the United States has become vacant by the death of Willm. Bradford Esq. I take the earliest opportunity of asking if you will accept the

[19] From the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1918–19.
[20] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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appointment? The Salary annexed thereto, and the prospect of a lucrative practice in this city, the present seat of the general government, must be as well known to you, better perhaps, than they are to me; and therefore I shall say nothing concerning them. If your answer is in the affirmative, it will readily occur to you that no unnecessary time should be lost in repairing to this place, If on the contrary, it should be in the negative (which would give me concern) it might be as well to say nothing of this offer. But in either case, I pray you to give me an answer as promptly as you can.[21] With esteem etc.[22]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, August 28, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: The enclosed letter for Miss Betcy Custis[23] relates to a matter, respecting which, I have made some enquiry in her behalf Put it into her own hands, if she is at Mount Vernon and as she might wish, perhaps, to revolve the subject a little, before she communicates the contents to any other, give it to her when she is alone, with this letter also, which only serves to cover it. I am etc.

P. S. I shall write to you again at the usual time, viz, by Mondays Post.[24]

*To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, August 29, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th. instt. came to hand yesterday, and I again thank you for your Zeal in, and attention to my business in the Western hemisphere.

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[21] Marshall's letter of declination is not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[22] From a photostat of the original in the possession of Mrs. Maria Willis Marshall Dwight, of Wilmington, Del. The draft, in the *Washington Papers,* varies in minor verbal particulars from this letter.

[23] Elizabeth ("Eliza") Parke Custis. She married Thomas Law in 1796. No draft or copy of Washington's letter to Eliza is now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[24] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon,* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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Your agreement with Colo. Richardson[25] for my land on Millers run, I shall adhere to in *all* its parts. On the plan he contemplates, for the redisposal of it (but which would not answer my purposes) I am pursuaded it will become a valuable purchase to him, and I wish it may do so with all my heart.

Making the payments of the Installmts. and interest to become due on the first day of June annually until the whole shall be paid, is not less pleasing than it will be found convenient to me; and I am very glad it occurred to you. The tract will, if I have not been misinformed, exceed, rather than fall short of 3000 Acres, be this however, as it may, it is placed on fair ground.

Having no copy of the power given you in the case of Colo. Shreve, and being but little accustomed to draughting instruments of that sort myself, the one now enclosd may be radically defective, if so, let it serve, with the aid of this letter, to prove that I *meant* to cloathe you with authority to do all that is requested, and that I hereby promise to do so, in any manner you shall draft, whensoever it shall be forwarded to me.

With respect to the person of the name of Bingham, I have no other knowledge of him than was derived from his letter, never having seen or interchanged any sentimts. with him on the subjt. of my land, nor did I mean more by sending his letter than merely to let you know that there was such a person disposed to make overtures.

I hardly know under present circumstances; future prospects; and the idea I have of the worth of the round bottom; what price to fix on it. Less than forty shillings an Acre I should not be inclined to take but you, better than I, know what the most valuable River bottoms in the part this is situated do, or

[25] Col. Matthew Ritchie (Richardson).

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ought, to sell for on the credts wch. have been allowed and therefore I confide to your fixing the price but not under 40/. I shd think it cheap at a half a Joe pr. Acre.

I have only to add, that I must pray you to think (before I see you again) of an adequate compensation for the trouble you have had with my affairs over the mountains; for you may be assured that I am more willing to pay, than you seem disposed to ask this. With very great esteem etc.[26]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, August 30, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have written to you so fully of late, that little remains to be said in this letter, beyond the acknowledgment of yours of the 23d instant.

I shall however add, that late as it is to be, in a manner, beginning to sow Wheat, I would rather have it delayed still longer than to be sowed in ground that is too wet; or in other respects unfit for its reception. No seed will ever yield well when put in in bad order; or too much out of season.

This reminds me of the necessity there is for sowing, without delay, the lot by the Spring, where Potatoes are growing, with Lucern. Prepare the ground well, and do not spare seed (trying the goodness of it beforehand). Admitting that the Potatoes

[26] Following the "Letter Book" copy of this letter in the *Washington Papers* is a copy of the power of attorney inclosed in the letter: "I do by these presents constitute and appoint the Honble. James Ross Esq. of Pittsburgh my lawful attorney for the purpose of disposing, in fee Simple, of all the lands of which I am possessed in the County of Washington, and commonwealth of Pennsylvania. With full power and authority to convey the same; by affixing my name or his own, in my behalf, to any deed which shall be proper and adequate thereto. And I do hereby oblige myself, my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, to confirm the same. In like manner I will ratify, and carry into full effect, any condition, stipulations or agreement which the said James Ross, may have made, or shall enter into on my behalf for on account of the said lands and premises. Given under my hand and seal in the City of Philada. this 29th day of August 1795." The original is in the University of Pittsburg Library.

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are not yet got to their full growth, it is better, notwithstanding, that they should suffer, than the Grass (by late sowing) from which permanent advantages are expected should be injured.

The Ploughs made by Isaac must be badly executed, or vastly abused at the Farms, from the continual employment he has in making them. A sett of Ploughs, made and taken care of as they ought to be, cannot, surely want replacing as often as mine are, by the Carpenters report; especially as there are so few stumps and stones in any of my arable fields. The Overseers ought to be attentive to this matter. If they had the making, or paying for the making, themselves, there wd not be this demand for them I apprehend and it is no good reason why they should be constantly calling for them, because they are done within myself.

I hope from the character given of Mr. Neale, that no disappointment will follow; but if the mode of communicating with him was not direct and certain you had better not rest it upon a single letter. I wish you well, and am Your friend[27]

*To CHARLOTTE DE LA SAUSSAYE HAZEN

Philadelphia, August 31, 1795.

Madam: More from a disposition to evince to you that I was not inattentive to your request, than from an apprehension that the Secretary of the Treasury required any stimulus to do you all the justice, and favor, which the rules of his office would permit; I sent the letter which you were pleased to honor me with, to him.

Enclosed is the result; and it may not be amiss for you to know, that I have no power, nor would there be any propriety,

[27] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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in my interfering with the settlement of accounts; unless it be in cases of mal-practice in the Officer. I wish that both your own, and Genl. Hazens situation were more comfortable than you represent them. It depends, it would seem, upon himself to make it so, in part. I am etc.

To JOHN EDIE

United States, Philadelphia, August 31, 1795.

Sir: I received your letter dated the 18th. instant covering certain resolutions of the Inhabitants of the Borough of York[28] and its vicinity relative to the Treaty lately negociated between the United States and Great Britain.

That I have assented to the Treaty pursuant to the advise and consent of the Senate is now publickly known; and you have done no more than justice to my intentions in believing that I should on this important subject, consult what appeared to me to be the welfare of my Country. With due respect I am etc.

*To GOVERNOR JOHN JAY

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 31, 1795.

My dear Sir: You will have learnt from the Public Gazettes, and through other more authentic channels, that all that rested with me to do, to give ratification to the treaty between this Country and G: Britain is already accomplished. Mr. Pinckneys absence from the Court of London; the information, and aids it was expected he would derive from Mr. Shorts presence and acquaintance with matters at that of Madrid; the pecuniary situation of our affairs in Holland, requiring the attentions

[28] Pennsylvania.

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of Mr. Adams in that country; and the little knowledge we had of the character and qualifications of Mr. Deas[29] have occasioned no little embarrassment in this business. However, a mode is adopted, which I hope will be effectual.[30]

It has not been among the smallest of these embarrassments, that the domineering spirit of G. Britain should revive again; just at this crisis, and the outrageous and insulting conduct of some of her Officers should combine therewith to play into the hands of the discontented and sour the minds of those who are friends to Peace, order and friendship with all the world. But this by the bye.

The object of this letter, is to pray you to aid me with hints relative to those points which you conceive to be fit subjects for the further friendly negociations on the trade with G. Britain agreeably to the recommendation of the Senate; and which appears to have been in contemplation by the concluding part of the treaty signed by yourself and Lord Grenville.

I intended to have asked this favor of you at an earlier day; but a coincidence of unexpected circumstances has involved me in so much business and perplexity that it has been delayed from time to time (since my arrival in this city) until the present moment; but as nothing is now asked that you have not, I am sure, revolved over and over again during your negociation and since the decision of the Senate thereupon I persuade myself, it will require but very little time for the digest I ask, and which I beg to receive as soon as you can make it convenient to give it to me; circumstances making it necessary for me to

[29] William Allen Deas, United States chargé d'affaires at London.

[30] Deas was instructed to proceed with the exchange of ratifications, if John Quincy Adams did not arrive from Holland in time. After he reached London, he wrote the Department of State, November 11, that "the additional, article suspending the clause in the twelfth article according to the ratification of the Senate, was agreed to without difficulty." From Hunter Miller's *Treaties and other International Acts* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931).

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leave this place, if possible, on monday next for Virginia in order to bring back my family; but instructions for the new Negociation *must* be prepared before I go. With very great esteem &c.

To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

[United States, Philadelphia, August 31, 1795.]

Sir: I have recd. your Letter of the 6th. instant inclosing the proceedings of the meeting at Norfolk[31] on the 5th. relative to the Treaty lately negociated between the United States and Great Britain.

On subjects of so complex *and relative* a nature as those embraced by the Treaty a diversity of opinion was to have been expected. My determination [which] is known to have been in affirmance of the Treaty as advised and consented to by the Senate, was formed after the most mature deliberation and with a sincere regard to the public good.

Though it cannot be uninteresting to me to know that the wishes of a part of my fellow Citizens have been contravened by this decision, yet if the purity of my intentions ever entitle me to their approbation, it has not been forfeited on the present important occasion. [With due respt. etc.][32]

To NOBLE WYMBERLEY JONES

United States, August 31, 1795.

Sir: I have recd. your Letter of the 1st. instant with the proceedings of the meeting at Savannah relative to the Treaty lately negociated between the United States and Great Britain.

[31] Virginia.

[32] The draft is in the writing of Timothy Pickering. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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My determination on this important subject and the general principles upon which it has been formed have been already promulgated to the public: next to the consciousness of having discharged my duty according to my best judgment, nothing could have afforded me a greater pleasure than to have found my decision consistent with the wishes of all my fellow Citizens.

On this occasion I have however been directed by the Great principle which has governed all my public conduct; a sincere desire to promote and secure the true Interests of my Country. [With due respect] I am etc.[33]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 31, 1795.

My dear Sir: Since my return to this city, I have recd. a letter from you dated August ———[34]

We know officially, as well as from the effects, that an order for siezing all provision vessels going to France has been issued by the British government: but so secretly, that as late as the 27th. of June it had not been published in London: It was communicated to the cruisers only, and not known until the captures brought it to light. By these high handed measures of that government, and the outrageous, and insulting conduct of its officers, it would seem next to impossible to keep peace between the United States and G: Britain.

To this moment we have received no explanation of Homess.[35] conduct from their charge des affaires here; altho' application was made for it before the departure of Mr. Hammond; on the

[33] The draft is in the writing of Oliver Wolcott, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

[34] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[35] Capt. Rodman Home (Hume), of the British frigate *Africa*.

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statement of Govr. Fenner,[86] and complaint of the French Minister. Conduct like this, disarm the friends of Peace and order, while they are the very things which those of a contrary description are wishing to see practiced.

I meant no more than barely to touch upon these subjects, in this letter; the object of it being, to request the favor of you to give me the points on which, in your opinion, Our *new* Negociator is to dwell; when we come into the field of Negociation again; agreeably to the recommendation of the Senate; agreeably to what appears to have been contemplated by Mr. Jay and Lord Grenville, at the close of the treaty subscribed by them; and agreeably also to what you conceive *ought* to be brought forward, and *insisted* upon, on this occasion.

I am sorry I have been so late in applying for this opinion; but a coincidence of unexpected events have involved me in more than usual business; and some of it not of a very pleasant nature. This has occasioned the delay: but the pro's and con's relative to the Treaty that *is,* and the treaty that *ought* to be, in the judgment of the opponents; are so much in your view, that if you wanted a remembrancer, you would be at no loss from these discussions to advert to them; and you will require but little time to furnish me with what I have here asked. This I press with more earnestness, inasmuch as circumstances will render it very inconvenient for me to remain here longer than the present week (before I return to Mount Vernon for my family) but which I must do, until the Instructions for the new Negociator is compleated.

Altho' you are not in the Administration, a thing I sincerely regret, I must, nevertheless, (knowing how intimately acquainted you are with all the concerns of this country) request the favor of you to note down such occurrences as, in your

[86] Gov. Arthur Fenner, of Rhode Island.

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opinion are proper subjects for communication to Congress at their next Session; and particularly as to the manner in which this treaty should be brought forward to that body: as it will, in any aspect it is susceptible of receiving, be the source of much declamation; and will, I have no doubt, produce a hot Session. With sincere regard etc.[87]

To THE SELECTMEN OF CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS[88]

[United States, August 31, 1795.]

Gentlemen: I recd. your Letter of the 22d. of July containing the Votes of the Inhabitants of the Town of Charlestown, who were convened to take into consideration the Treaty pending between the U. S. and G. B.

My assent to the Treaty as advised and consented to, by the Senate and the principles which governed my determination are now publickly known. In this as in every other exercise of the powers committed to me by the Constitution I have aimed to promote the public good and to merit those sentiments of personal confidence which are expressed in your communication. [With due respt. etc.][89]

To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, September 5, 1795.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the letter, of Mr. Charles Morgan, enclosed that the prospect of getting my business out of

[87] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On September 4 Washington wrote to William Tilghman, in the third person: "Whenever it shall be convenient to Mr. Tilghman, the Presid't will receive the money which he has obtained from Mr. George, with a statement of the account, The sum charged by Mr. Tilghman the P. thinks very reasonable, and is willing to allow it." This note is from the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1892.

[88] Richard Devins, David Goodwin, Joseph Adams, Richard Frothingham, John Carter, and Eliphalet Newell.

[89] The draft is in the writing of Oliver Wolcott, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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the Hands of Colo. Cannon in an amicable manner, is neither near, nor promising.

This mans candour punctuality and truth, are Violated to a shameful degree; when he was in this City, during the trial of the insurgents I sent for him with intention to remonstrate against his improper treatment of me, but his *apparent* concern for it and strong assurances, that he would the *moment* he got home send all my land papers to you, and present an exact statement, of the Rents due to me, and from whom, to Mr. Morgan; disarmed me.

I hope he will be prevented from getting the money due on the judgment Bonds of Shreve' into his hands; and if you have an opportunity of Communicating with Morgan, to desire him to forewarn the Tenants from making payments to Cannon. Any representation to the latter on the impropriety of his Conduct, would I am persuaded be unavailing, otherwise I would request this favor from you also. If nothing short of Compulsory means will bring him to a settlement, I must, however reluctantly, resort to them but would avoid it if possible. With very great esteem etc.[40]

To SECONDAT DE MONTESQUIEU

Philadelphia, September 7, 1795.

Sir: I sincerely wish that my enquiries relative to your Son, pursuant to your desires, had been attended with a more favorable result than the enclosed papers Communicate. Altho the information may fall short of your wishes, they will nevertheless prove, that I was not unmindful of your Commands, and

[40] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On September 6 Washington wrote to William Pearce, concerning the sowing of wheat. "I expect to set out in two or three days for Mount Vernon I shall add no more." From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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afford me an opportunity of declaring the respect with which I have the honor to be, Sir Your etc.[41]

*To GEORGE CABOT

(Private and confidential)

Philadelphia, September 7, 1795.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letters[42] (which after reading, be so good as to return to me) will be the best appology I can offer for the liberty I am about to take and for the trouble, if you comply with my request, it must necessarily give.

To express all the sensibility wch. has been excited in my breast by the receipt of young Fayettes letter, from the recollection of his fathers merits, services and sufferings, from my friendship for him, and from my wishes to become a *friend* and *father* to his Son; are unnecessary. Let me in a few words, declare that I *will be his friend;* but the manner of becomg. so considering the obnoxious light in which his father is viewed by the French government, and my own situation, as the Executive of the U. States, requires more time to consider in all its relations, than I can bestow on it at present; the letters not having been in my hands more than an hour, and I myself on the point of setting out for Virginia to fetch my family back whom I left there about the first of August.

The mode which, at the first view strikes me as the most eligable to answer his purposes and to save appears. is, 1. to administer all the consolation to young Gentleman that he can derive from the most unequivocal assurances of my standing in the place of and becoming to him, a *Father, friend, protector,* and

[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[42] Of August 31, from George Washington Motier Lafayette, and his tutor, Felix Frestel, who had arrived in Boston from France.

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supporter. but 2dly. for prudential motives, as they may relate to himself; his mother and friends, whom he has left behind; and to my *official* character it would be best not to make these sentiments public; of course, that it would be ineligable, that he should come to the Seat of the genl. government where all the foreign characters (particularly that of his own nation) are residents, until it is seen what opinions will be excited by his arrival; especially too as I shall be necessarily absent five or Six weeks from it, on business, in several places. 3. considering how important it is to avoid idleness and dissipation; to improve his mind; and to give him all the advantages which education can bestow; my opinion, and my advice to him is, (if he is qualified for admission) that he should enter as a student at the University in Cambridge altho' it shd. be for a short time *only*. The expence of which, as also of every other mean for his support, I will pay; and now do authorise you, my dear Sir, to draw upon me accordingly; and if it is in any degree *necessary,* or *desired,* that Mr. Frestel his Tutor should accompany him to the University in that character; any arrangements which you shall make for the purpose, and any expence thereby incurred for the same, shall be borne by me in like manner.

One thing more, and I will conclude: Let me pray you my dear Sir to impress upon young Fayette's mind, and indeed upon that of his tutors that the reasons why I do not urge him to come to me, have been frankly related, and that their prudence must appreciate them with caution. My friendship for his father so far from being diminshd has encreased in the ratio of his misfortunes; and my inclination to serve the son will be evidenced by my conduct; reasons wch. will readily occur to *you,* and wch can easily be explained to him, will acct. for my not acknowledging the receipt of his, or Mr. Frestal's Letter. With sincere esteem &c.

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PS. You will perceive that young Lafayette has taken the name of Motier. Whether it is best he should retain it and aim at perfect concealment, or not, depends upon a better knowledge of circumstances than I am possessed of, and therefore I leave this matter to your own judgment after a consultation with the parties.[43]

To THE COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNS OF EASTHAMPTON, SOUTHAMPTON, SOUTHOLD, RIVERHEAD, BROOKHAVEN, AND SMITHTOWN, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK[44]

United States, September 7, 1795.

Gentlemen: I have received your Letter of August 6th expressing your sentiments on the Treaty lately negociated between the United States and Great Britain.

It is now generally known that the Treaty has received my assent on the condition proposed by the Senate: this was not given until after the most mature deliberation: Notwithstanding the diversity of opinion which has been manifested, is much to be regretted I cannot but hope, that experience will shew, that the public Interest required the course which has been pursued. With due respct I am etc.[45]

*To ROBERT TREAT PAINE

Philadelphia, September 7, 1795.

Sir: Since my return to this City, from Mount Vernon, I have been favored with your letter of the 30th. of July, with the

[43] Young Lafayette and Frestel went to New York, with intentions of stopping with Monsieur La Colombe.

[44] David Hedges, Benjamin Huntting, Abraham Miller, Jared Landon, Benjamin Horton, jr., Josiah Reeve, David Warner, Nicoll Floyd, and John Howard.

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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accompanying Poem The invention of Letters. For the honor of Inscribing it to me, and the flattering sentiments therein expressed, I pray you to accept the best thanks of, Sir Your etc.

[M. L.]

*To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Elkton, Wednesday, September 9, 1795.

Dear Sir: I had no time yesterday morning to look into the Gazettes; nor did I know until the evening, that the French frigate Medusa had slipped her Cables and put to Sea on the 31st Ulto.; and was followed in a few hours by the Africa.[46]

This circumstance be the result what it may I regret exceedingly; because the effect of the order, for the departure of the latter, will be the same as to the British as if she had been in the harbour of Newport; and we shall obtain no credit for it from the French, and their partizans; for as the appearance (however false) is susceptible of the interpretation, so it will be said, that the order was never intended to be issued until it was known there would be nothing for it to operate upon.

The purpose, however, of my writing you this letter is to request that Mr. Monroe may be immediately and fully informed of facts, and directed to represent them truly as they are; for it may be relied upon, if the Medusa escapes being captured, Mr. Fauchet (whose mind is ardent, and who does not leave this country with the most favorable impressions of the views of the government towards his own) will paint this transaction in very high colours; and among other things will say that after waiting in vain a month, to see if the Executive would take effectual notice of the indignity offered to him, and the insult to its own Sovereignty, he was obliged to forego his

[46] A British frigate which had been blockading the *Medusa* in Newport harbor. Fauchet went to France on the *Medusa*, which eluded the *Africa*.

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passage or run the hazards he did to accomplish it. Being in a hurry, and just upon the point of proceeding[47] I will only add that with sincerity and truth I am &c.

To WILLIAM FALKENER[48]

United States, September 14, 1795.

Sir: I received your letter of the 22d. of August, covering an address from the Inhabitants of Warren County[49] who assembled to consider of the treaty lately negociated with Great Britain; and, expressing their disapprobation of it, desired that it might not receive my sanction.

Previous to that meeting the treaty had received my assent. The principles which governed my determination have been made public. While I regret a difference of opinion on this subject, with perfect sincerity I assure my fellow Citizens "that my attachment to the Constitution is unalterable, and my zeal to promote the happiness and welfare of my Constituents undiminished." With due respect etc.[50]

*To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, September 14, 1795.

My dear Sir: The motives which give birth to this letter, proceed as much from private friendship, as they do from a

[47] Washington left Philadelphia on the morning of September 8 and reached Mount Vernon, September 13.

[48] Chairman of a meeting of citizens at Warrenton, N. C.

[49] North Carolina.

[50] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On September 14 Washington wrote a similar reply to William Harvey, chairman of the meeting of citizens at Fredericksburg, Va. This letter and the address from Fredericksburg are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (September 14) Washington also replied to Samuel Hopkins, jr., chairman of a meeting of "Deputies of the District of Brunswick," Virginia; to Thomas Taylor, chairman of the meeting of the Camden and Orangeburg districts, South Carolina; to Thomas Tristram, chairman of the meeting of the Cheraw district, South Carolina; and also to George Heriot, chairman of a meeting of the inhabitants of Georgetown, S. C. Copies of these answers and the addresses are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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sense of public duty; whatever therefore may be the effects produced by it I presume on your excuse for the trouble it will give you.

The letter herewith enclosed from Mr. Scott (one of the Commissioners of the Fedl. City) was met by me on my way to George Town, with another from Colo. Deakins to the same effect. To the sentiments expressed in the former, it would seem scarcely necessary to add another sentence: Yet upon a more detailed conversation with the Commissioners (since the receipt of the above letter) I am so thoroughly impressed with the ruinous consequences wch. must result to the public buildings from a delay of the payment which the Comrs. have requested, that I should think my official conduct reprehensible if I did not press them upon you most urgently.

There are many valuable Stone cutters, and other workmen now engaged; a number of laborers are employed on the public buildings of differt. descripns. and on difft. terms; order, and a proper arrangement of the work is established; and everything at the capitol seems to progress as well as can reasonably be expected under the embarrassments which have been encountered. But without the aid required in Mr. Scotts letter, the whole must be at a stand, at the time he mentions; the workmen *must* be discharged; and, more than probable, the most valuable of them will be irrecoverably lost. whilst the buildings will be left, not only in a stagnant state but in a hurtful situation; involving consequences which are too obvious to need enumeration.

It was not, as I am persuaded you are well convinced, the *price* of the lots which induced the first sale to Mr. Greenleaf, nor the subsequent one in which you are concerned; but to the collateral advantages which were expected to be derived from the erection of buildings, and the advance of money. Withhold

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these, and the contract exhibits an unproductive and a disagreeable spectacle.

I could enlarge very much on this subject; but I am sure nothing cd. be added that will not occur to you without [*sic*] upon reflection; or that would be in any manner new except suggestions which may not have reached you, and which I pray you to believe have not obtained the smallest credence in my mind, to wit, that as both Mr. Nicholson's interest and your own, lie principally in another quarter, nothing but embarrassments are to be expected from you. that the object of both, is to speculate with the lots till towards the close of the period for the removal of the government and then it will be found that neither of you will have retained any, or very little property in the City. Why else, it is asked did these gentlemen take this contract upon themselves, for they must have known as well at that time as now their means for compliance, and ought not to have made these difficulties if they fd them defective. The best evidence I can give you of my thorough disbelief of these suggestions is, the communication I now make of them that being apprised thereof, their malignancy may be counteracted. Be so good as to return Mr. Scotts letter &ca. to me, and to be assured of the sincere esteem etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1795.

Dear Sir: Monday's Mail brought me both your letters dated the 11th. instant. The one containing an extract from Majr. Craig's[51] letter, relative to the conclusion of the treaty with the North western Tribes of Indians, was very acceptable. and I

*Maj. Isaac(?) Craig, quartermaster of the United States Legion.

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pray you to dispatch Seagrove,[53] and impress strongly upon him the necessity, and the earnest desire of, the government that he would, without delay, effect, if it can be done a peace between the Creeks and Chiccasaws. It would be a pleasing circumstance not only to be enabled to say, at the meeting of Congress, that we were at Peace with *all the Indian Nations,* but by the mediation of the U. States, we had settled the differences between the tribes above mentioned; the latter of whom having been always our friends, and engaged according to their own acct. in a war partly on our behalf.

My letter from Baltimore by Express (the expence of which I preferred to the delay of waiting three days for the next mail) and my other letter from Elkton will shew my anxiety to get off the sevl. dispatches for our public characters abroad, namely, Pinckney, Monroe and Adams; I request therefore to know (if they are gone) when, and by what Vessels, and what Ports they were sent: and I request moreover, that repeated copies may be sent to all of them to insure the arrival of one.

I am sorry I had not sounded Mr. Boudinot[53] on the appointment to the Mint, before he left the vicinity of Phila. as Mr. De Dissausure[54] cannot or will not remain at his Post longer than the early part of October.

Mr. Marshall (from some peculiar circumstances) declines the offer of Attorney Genl.; and I have been enquiring into the abilities and other qualifications of the Law characters in Maryland, but not much to my satisfaction as yet.

I perceive by the Gazettes, that the Africa missed the prey she was in pursuit of, and had got back to her old Station at Newport. Have you heard whether the order for quitting it

[53] James Seagrove, United States Agent of Southern Indian Affairs.
[53] Elias Boudinot was nominated director of the United States Mint in a message to the Senate, Dec. 10, 1795, and confirmed, December 11.
[54] Henry William De Saussure. He was director of the United States Mint.

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has been communicated to Captn. Holmes? If so what has been the result? and the sentiments [it] has excited in persons of different descriptions. With much truth I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1795.

Sir: If, when this reaches your hands, there should be no contract or other obligation existing on behalf of the U. S. for the purchase of land on the Potomac, intended for the public Arsenal, I should wish all further negotiation in this business to be suspended until proper inquiries can be made and information obtained respecting the property at the junction of the Potomac and Shanandoah rivers in this State; for it has been represented to me, that this spot affords every advantage that could be wished for water works to any extent; and that no place is more capable of complete defence at a small expense. And I am also informed that from 800 to 1000 Acres of land might be obtained there on reasonable terms. The land at the junction of the two Rivers, including what is called Harper's ferry, has lately been leased for 7 years, and the lessee has the right of purchasing whenever it may be sold. Should this spot be fixed upon for the Arsenal, the Lessee will relinquish his title to the U. S. reserving only a small piece of the land for the purpose of building Stores and doing business. Six hundred Acres of land adjoining this tract is, I am told, offered for sale by Colo. Ball for fifteen hundred pounds Virga money. Colo. Ball has a lease of this tract for 70 years at £5 pr. 100 Acres, and a number of years have been already paid in the lease. The fee is in Genl. Henry Lee who I have no doubt will dispose of his right on very reasonable terms.

There is another small tract, with a saw mill upon it, adjoining the two foregoing, which I am told may be also purchased.

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From my own knowledge, I can speak of the eligibility of this situation for a public Arsenal; but as I have never examined it very attentively, I am not able to speak so decidedly as to the advantages of erecting works there. These, however, I am told, are equal to any on the Potomac or its branches, having the advantage of a considerable fall in both Rivers, which may be brought to operate at this place. At any rate if the thing is open it may be well to have enquiry made and prices ascertained before it becomes known that this spot is in view. I am etc.[55]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 11th. with two others from you dated the 14 instant, were received yesterday.

The summary of the dispatches from Governor Blount, was more agreeable to me than complete transcripts of his letter with the enclosures; and the same practice where information only is intended, may govern in other cases.

I am very glad to find that the Creeks are so well disposed for Peace with the Chiccasaws. I hope their professions are sincere, and that the attempt to recover their prisoners is no finesse. I hope also that Govr. Blount will go to work in earnest to accomplish this measure, *effectually*. If so, the request in my last that Seagrove should be immediately dispatched on this business may be superceded; but of this I leave you to judge; after expressing an earnest wish that so desirable an object as Peace betwn. these Tribes may not be impeded either by delay, or want of exertion in the Agent, or Agents who are to negociate it.

[55] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

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I do not, I confess, see how the application of Colo. Lowther[56] is to be reconciled with the pacific dispositions of the Indians; as related from all quarters. The footing you have placed the matter upon with the Govr. of Virginia, is the best the case will admit; but I would press him not to suffer the detachments which have been drawn out by the former to remain in service longer than the exigency of the case shall absolutely require. There is too great a propensity in the Officers commanding on the frontiers to call out the Militia, and to establish such corps.

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1795.

Gentlemen: The copy of the Letter which you wrote to the Secretary of State on the 21st ulto., enclosing regulations relative to the wharves and buildings in the federal City, came to my hands yesterday.

If the proprietors of water-lots will be satisfied with the rules therein established for the extension of wharves and buildings thereon, the regulations will meet my entire approbation; and of their ideas on this head, you have, no doubt, made some enquiries, and decide accordingly.

The other regulations, respecting the removal of dirt &c. and the thickness of walls, appear to me to be very proper; but in settling the latter point, the opinion of workmen, I presume, has been taken. With respect I am etc.[57]

[56] Col. William Lowther, of Virginia.

[57] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

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*To HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1795.

My dear Sir: I received with great pleasure the letter you wrote me from Boston, dated the 2d. instant; as I always shall do any others you may favor me with. This pleasure was encreased by hearing of the good health of Mrs. Knox and the rest of your family, and the agreeableness of your establishment at St. George's in the Provence of Maine. I may add also, that the account given of the favorable disposition of the people, generally, in your hemisphere, relatively to the Treaty with Great Britain, contributed not a little to the satisfaction I derived in hearing from you.

Next to a conscientious discharge of my public duties, to carry along with me the approbation of my Constituents, would be the highest gratification my mind is susceptible of; but the latter being subordinate, I cannot make the former yield to it; unless some criterian more infallible than partial (if they are not party) meetings, can be discovered as the touch stone of public sentiment. If any power on earth could, or the great power above would, erect the standard of infallibility in political opinions, there is no being that inhabits this terrestrial globe that would resort to it with more eagerness than myself, so long as I remain a servant of the public. But as I have found no better guide hitherto than upright intentions, and close investigation, I shall adhere to these maxims while I keep the watch; leaving it to those who will come after me to explore new ways, if they like; or think them better.

The temper of the people of this State, particularly the Southern parts of it, of South Carolina and Georgia, as far as it is discoverable from the several meetings and resolutions which have been published, is adverse to the Treaty with Great

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Britain; and yet, I doubt much whether the great body of Yeomanry have formed any opinion on the subject; and whether, if their sense could be fairly taken under a plain and simple statement of facts, nine tenths of them would not advocate the measure. But with such abominable misrepresentations as appear in most of the proceedings, is it to be wondered at that uninformed minds should be affrighted with the dreadful consequences which are predicted, and are taught to expect, from the ratification of such a diabolical instrument, as the treaty is denominated. From North Carolina we hear little concerning it, and from Kentucky nothing.

The moment I received your letter, with one from young Fayette (which was not until the evening preceeding my departure for this place I wrote to Mr. Cabot, the Senator, requesting, without letting my name appear, that the young gentleman might be provided (at my expence) with every thing that he and his Tutor might stand in need of. And as his coming to Philadelphia, immediately at least, might, the French Minister being there, occasion embarrassments and be productive of no essential good, I proposed, until something more eligable could be devised, to have him entered at the University in Cambridge, with his Tutor. I did not write to the youth myself, for reasons which will readily occur to you; but entreated Mr. Cabot to explain them to him in the most affectionate and consoling manner; and to assure him in the strongest terms, that I would be to him as a friend and father; and that he might to all intents and purposes count upon me as such.

If your mind is still balancing between Philadelphia and Boston for Winter quarters, I sincerely wish it may fix on the former. Mrs. Washington and the rest of my family are well, and unite in best regards for you, Mrs. Knox &ca.; with Dear Sir Your etc. [MS. H. S.]

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To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1795.

Dear Sir: Two letters from you, dated the 18 instant, were received yesterday.

For the reasons you have assigned, I think it best that Mr. Boudinot should fill the Directorship of the Mint, and request he may be informed so. At the same time, urge him to come forward, if for no other purpose than to arrange matters with the present occupant, and derive from him all the insight into the business, his experience has acquird, and which he promised me he would communicate to his successor. Inclosed is a blank commission for the Successor of Mr. Desaussure, which may take date at the close of his services, according to the arrangement proposed above.

I also send a Letter from Mr. Kinlock relative to his Nephew, who, from his account, is suffering in the cause of the unfortunate Fayette. I wish you to acknowledge the rect. of it; but what consolation to give him I know not; for if the citizens of the U States in foreign countries commit acts, which are repugnant to their Laws or usages, they certainly expose themselves to punishment: nor having any character in the Austrian Dominions cloathed as a functionary, do I know of any channel through which a movement of *any* sort could be made.

If the French Letter which goes under cover with this, requires any act of mine, let it be returned with a translation and your opinion thereon.

I wait with some impatience to receive an official accot. of the result of Wayne's treaty with the Western Indians. When it is recd. at the War office, give me the substance of it. By this however I mean no more than whether the representation on the part of the Indians was complete, and whether he has come

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fully up to his instructions: exceeded, or fallen short of them in advantages, and in what instances; what are the boundaries; whether the proceedings went on harmoniously, or were intermingled with Difficulties; and of what sort, and from whom. With great esteem etc.[58]

To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1795.

Dear Sir: Knowing nothing of what the Dismal Swamp Compy. are doing, or mean to do with their property in that place, and having an offer for my share therein, I would take it kind of you to let me know by the first post after you receive this Letter, what you think it is worth, by the acre; or in other words the highest price any of the companies Lands have, or ought to sell for in that way [allowing a credit of 3 or 4 years the purchaser paying interest.] Whether their property is rising in value, and what it may get to (by the acre) in the course of two or three years. I would thank you also for letting me know what a full share, which I hold of the plantation and negroes belonging to the Comy. in that Swamp is worth. With Esteem etc.[59]

To JOHN PAGE

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1795.

Dear Sir: You probably are better acquainted with the writer of the enclosed letter than I am. I therefore take the liberty of giving you the trouble of forwarding, or returning my letter to him according to the idea you may entertain of the abilities of the gentleman to comply with the terms I offer the land on;

[58] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

[59] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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left open for your perusal. I have also had proposals to rent it. Pray what ought I to ask? I am told there is no building on it; the fencing all destroyed; and depredations commiting on the timber.

Be so good when you write to me, which I hope will be as soon as your convenience will permit, to let me know the highest price (by the acre) you conceive I may get for my interest in the Dismal Swamp, Allowing a credit upon interest, of 3 or 4 years. I have an offer for it, and as the property is rather expensive than productive, I am disposed to part with it. With great esteem etc.[60]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Alexandria, September 26, 1795.

Gentlemen: At this place, yesterday afternoon, I received the letter herewith enclosed from Mr. Morris, in answer to one I wrote him; as much of a private as an official nature.[61] It is for your information only I send it, to avoid a lengthy detail of its contents: to give which I have not time at present. When you have read it, be so good as to return it to Gentlemen Your etc.[62]

*To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 21st. instant, did not reach me until yesterday. A late letter of mine to you, will have

[60] From the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1911.
[61] Morris's letter of September 21 is in the *Washington Papers*.
[62] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

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fixed the Directorship of the Mint upon Mr. Boudinot; the application therefore of Majr. Jackson, however fit he may have been for the Office, is too late. But besides the reasons assigned in your letter against such an appointment at present, I should have preferred a character from another State, if one equally suitable could have been found; for the reasons you have often heard me mention altho' they do not apply with the same force now as formerly.

With respect to Mr. Dexter,[82] for the Office of Attorney General, altho I have a very good opinion of his abilities, and know nothing in his moral character or connexions that are objectionable, yet the reason which I assigned when his name was first mentioned to me has still weight in my mind; that is, after a long and severely contested, an election he could not obtain a majority of suffrages in the District he formerly represented. In this instance then the sense of his constituents respecting him *personally* has been fairly taken; and one of the charges agst. me, relative to the treaty you know is, that I have disregarded the voice of the people, altho' that voice has never yet been heard unless the misrepresentations of party, or at best partial meetings can be called so.

I shall not, whilst I have the honor to Administer the government, bring a man into any office, of consequence knowingly whose political tenets are adverse to the measures which the *general* government are pursuing; for this, in my opinion, would be a sort of political Suicide; that it wd. embarrass its movements is most certain. But of two men equally well affected to the true interests of their country, of equal abilities and equally disposed to lend their support, it is the part of prudence to give a preference to him, against whom the *least*

[82] Samuel Dexter, of Massachusetts.

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clamour can be excited: for such an one my enquiries have been made and are still making: how far I shall succeed, is at this moment problematical.[64]

I have not relinquished my intention of being in Philadelphia about the middle of next month. With great esteem &c.

*To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1795.

Sir: I have lately received three letters from you: two bearing date the 15th. instant; the other the 21st. One of the former came to hand the 19th, the other the 21st.[65] and the latter yesterday.

Your signature as Secretary of State to the ratification of the Treaty having been given on the 14th. of August, and your resignation not taking place until the 19th. it became necessary, in order to be consistent (the original being dispatched) that the same countersign should appear to the copies; otherwise, this act would not have been required of you.

It is not in my power to inform you at what time Mr. Hammond put the interscepted letter of Mr. Fauchet into the hands of Mr. Wolcott. I had no intimation of the existence of such a letter until after my arrival in Philadelphia, the 11th. of August. When Lord Grenville first obtained that letter, and when the British Minister here received it from him; are facts with which I am entirely unacquainted. I have never seen in whole, or in part, Mr. Fauchet's dispatches numbered Three and Six; nor do I possess any document, or knowledge of papers which have affinity to the subject in question.

[64] At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "If the choice should finally fall upon Mr. Dexter I can with truth say I have been actuated by no other motive than is here expressed for I have an exceeding good opinion of him."

[65] The draft in the *Washington Papers* has the "22d."

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No man would rejoice more than I should, to find that the suspicions which have resulted from the intercepted letter, were unequivocally, and honorably removed.[66]

*To EDWARD CARRINGTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1795.

Dear Sir: Wishing to fill the Office of Attorney-General of the U States with a gentleman of acknowledged abilities, and of the best disposition to promote the welfare of this country, permit me to ask you (confidentially) if Colo. Innes[67] would, in all respect, do for such an appointment?

That he possesses great natural endowments I have always been told; and that he is a friend to the general government I have no cause to disbelieve. But what his acquired knowledge is, how well grounded he may be in law generally and particularly in the Law of Nations; and what is his depth in the science of Politicks, or in other words, his acquaintance with history and his *general* knowledge, I am altogether ignorant.

If, and I permit you to consult Mr. Marshall[68] on this occasion, you should think he would do honor to the appointment allow me to request the favor of you to sound him on the score of his acceptance, and, whether it is agreeable to him to do so or not, to give me the earliest intimation of the result; for the successor of Mr. Bradford, whomsoever he shall be, must enter upon the duties of the function with as little delay as possibly can be avoided.

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[66] From the manuscript volume labeled "Randolph's Vindication," in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress.

[67] James Innes.

[68] John Marshall.

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Colo. Innes has, I know, the character of extreme indolence. and In all employments, this will be considered as a drawback from the fitness of character or the execution of a trust; but the Office of Attorney general of the U. States does not require constant labour, or attention. At times, both must be close and deep. On such occasions his pride (if his abilities are adequate) would stimulate him to exertion and eclat.

Your sentiments on the subject of this enquiry will remain with Dear Sir Your etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1795.

Sir: Two letters from you, dated the 21st. instant, and one of the 23d, came to Alexandria by the Post on Friday.

I will immediately set on foot an enquiry relative to the prospect of obtaining the lands sufficient for an Arsenal at the confluence of the Rivers Potomac and Shenandoah. From what I have heard of this site, and partly from what I know of it, it must be the most eligable spot on the whole river in *every* point of view, for a work of this sort. The object for which the enquiry will be made, can, and will be effectually cloaked by the Gentleman I shall employ to make it.

It is a little surprising that the Treaty with the Western Indians[69] has not been received from Generl. Wayne; and very extraordinary that he should permit a copy of it to be taken; especially before it was laid before the proper authorities and

*Pickering's letter of September 21 states: "Colo Sargeant who arrived on Friday, and called on me Saturday, showed me a copy of the treaty, without the names subscribed to it, and expressed his surprise that the original had not been received." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. A certified copy of the treaty signed at Greenville, Aug. 9, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*. It was forwarded to the President in Pickering's letter of September 28.

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approved. I am very sorry to hear that the Shawanees were not fully represented at this Treaty. Were the other tribes more so?

If the information which Mr. Seagrove has received from his deputies, relatively to the conclusion of Peace between the Creeks and Chickasaws,[70] is to be relied on, it is an event from which I shall derive much satisfaction; and shall wait anxiously for a confirmation of the news.

The number of men you propose as a cover for the Stores, and trading Post proposed to be established at Colerain, can, if the Treaty with the Western Indians is (as we understand) concluded, be well spared; and as there seems to be as great an occasion for a force to restrain the turbulent and disorderly people on that frontier from disturbing the Peace of the United States as there is for protection against the Indians, I think a garrison of 150 or 200 men according to circumstances, at the place above mentioned, will be properly disposed of, and I desire they may be sent accordingly.

Give the dispatches to Mr. Pinckney all the chances that may offer immediately of getting them speedily to hand, or the trouble of preparing them will be lost labour. I am glad to find by Governor Fenner's letter, that the measures adopted by the Genl. Government, relatively to the British Vice Consul Moore,[71] and the Captn. of the Africa has been satisfactory to the people of Rhode Island. It has not been so, I perceive, to the Editor of the Aurora; for in that paper, it is set down as a contrivance to through [*sic*] the Medusa into the hands of the British.

[70] Seagrove's letter from Philadelphia to the Secretary of War (September 20) states: "My letters inform that a Copy of the Treaty was forwarded to me by a vessel from Savannah to this place which may be hourly expected; as soon as it arrives I shall have the honor of presenting it to you." A copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[71] Thomas William Moore, British vice consul in Rhode Island. His exequatur was revoked by the President, September 5.

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To JESSE SANDERS[72]

Mount Vernon, September 30, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 29 ultimo covering resolutions of a number of the Citizens of Columbia County, expressing of their disapprobation of the treaty lately negotiated between the United States and Great Britain has been received.

The treaty has received my sanction, after the most mature deliberation, and consultation of the interests and happiness of my fellow Citizens of the United States and a conviction that thereby they would both be promoted. I regret exceedingly that there should have been any difference of opinion on so important a subject; but I trust my fellow Citizens will believe that the advancement of their prosperity and welfare, which I have always in view, has produced the decision I have made in the present case. With due respect I am etc.[73]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 25th. and two of the 28th. Ulto. have been duly received; one of them accompanied with a copy of the treaty with the Western Indians, which I shall retain until my arrival in Philadelphia; presuming, if no accident happens, that the original will be with you as soon as the copy could, were I to send it by the Mail of tomorrow.

In one of your letters of the above date, the proceedings of a meeting at Augusta in Georgia, forwarded by Judge Walton is mentioned as an enclosure. None, however came, nor was it

[72] Chairman of a meeting of the citizens of Columbia County, Ga.

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The resolutions are also entered in the "Letter Book."

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material, as you proposed to acknowledge the receipt thereof. with very great esteem etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th. Ulto. was received yesterday. It is not wonderful that Mr. Randolphs late conduct, and the publication of his letter to me, should have excited an anxious curiosity to know what his explanations will be; but it is wonderful that so much time should be required to give birth to them.

Embarrassed, as it is to be apprehended he is, in this business, his object, I conceive must be, to gain time; to puzzle; and to try if he cannot discover inconsistencies in the conduct of others, relative to it. On no other ground can I account for his letter to me, dated the 21st. Ulto; which, with his other two of the 15th;[74] and my answer to the whole, I herewith enclose for the information of yourself and Colo. Pickering *only*.

His letters of the 15th received no acknowledgment; and at first I hesitated whether to give any to that of the 21st. After a while I thought of referring him to you, for information on those points which it was evidently as much, or more in your power than in mine, to give him; but finally I conceived it most eligable to furnish him with no pretexts, and therefore wrote what you will see in the copy.[75] I did it, because if delay was his object, it would be promoted by my silence; and because

[74] None of these letters, the two of September 15 and the one of September 21, are now found in the *Washington Papers*. Randolph's draft of one of those of September 15 is in the group of papers labeled "Randolph's Vindication," in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress.

[75] See Washington's letter to Edmund Randolph, Sept. 27, 1795, *ante*.

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(which probably would have answered his purposes still better) it might have afforded him some ground for saying he was doomed to be a victim; and with a view to accomplish it, the means to his vindication was denied, or withheld.

These reasons added to a disposition to do him all manner of justice, induced me to give him concise answers to all his queries; as far as the means were within my power, although fully convinced in my own mind of the insidious tendency of them.

Whether similar enquiries have been made of you, of Colo. Pickering, or of both, by him, I know not. If they have, to see if he could involve inconsistencies in the answers, has been his aim: and to know what kind of superstructure he might build, on the information he has obtained (if any) from Mr. Fauchet, it was necessary to ascertain in the first place, whether the government was in possession of any part of that gentlemens letters numbered 3 and 6, by which, this superstructure might be endangered. I was on the point once, of hinting to him, that I hoped nothing in his vindication wd. render it necessary to publish the whole of Mr. Fauchets letter; but on second thoughts I declined it, lest he should consider it as a threat, and make an improper use of it.

As I shall be in Philadelphia shortly, I will not add on this subject; but from you, if any thing more transpires, I should be glad to hear. The present enclosures may remain in your hands until I return to the City. With very great esteem etc.

[C. H. S.]

*To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th. Ulto, after travelling to Philadelphia and back again, was received by me, at this place, the 1st. instant.

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The letter from Madame de Chastellux to me, is short, referring to the one she has written to you for particulars respecting herself and infant son. Her application to me is unquestionably misplaced, and to Congress it would certainly be unavailing, as the Chevalier Chastelluxs. pretensions (on which hers must be founded) to any allowance from this country, were no greater than that of any, and every other Officer of the French Army, who served in America the last War. To grant to one therefore, would open a wide door to applications of a similar nature, and to consequent embarrassments. Probably, the sum granted at the last Session of Congress to the daughters of the Count de Grasse, has given rise to this application. That it has done so in other instances, I have good reasons to believe.

I am much pleased with the account you have given of the Succory. This, like all other things of the sort with me, since my absence from home, have come to nothing; for neither my Overseers nor Manager, will attend properly to anything but the crops they have usually cultivated: and in spite of all I can say, if there is the smallest discretionary power allowed them, they will fill the land with Indian Corn; altho' they have demonstrable proof, at every step they take, of its destructive effects. I am resolved however, as soon as it shall be in my power to attend a little more closely to my own concerns, to make this crop yield, in a great degree to other grain; to pulses, and to grasses. I am beginning again with Chiccory from a handful of seed given to me by Mr. Strickland; which, though flourishing at present has not appearance of seeding this year. Lucern has not succeeded better with me than with you; but I will give it another, and a fairer trial before it is abandoned altogether. Clover, when I can dress lots well, succeeds with me to my full expectation; but not on the fields in rotation; although I have been at much cost in seeding them. This has greatly discon-

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certed the system of rotation on which I had decided. I wish you may succeed in getting good seed of the winter Vetch: I have often imported it, but the seed never vegitated; or in so small proportion as to be destroyed by weeds. I believe it would be an acquisition if it was once introduced properly in our farms. The Albany Pea, which is the same as the field Pea of Europe, I have tried and found it grew well; but it is subject to the same bug that perforates the garden pea, and eats out the kernel; so it will happen, I fear, with the pea you propose to import. I had great expectation from a green dressing with Buck Wheat, as a preparatory fallow for a crop of Wheat; but it has not answered my expectation yet. I ascribe this however, more to mismanagement in the times of seeding and ploughing in, than to any defect in the system. The first ought to be so ordered, in point of time, as to meet a convenient season for ploughing it in while the plant is in its most succulent state; but this has never been done on my farms, and consequently has drawn as much *from*, as it has given *to* the earth. It has always appeared to me that there were two modes in which Buck Wheat might be used advantageously as a manure. One, to sow early; and as soon as a sufficiency of seed ripened to stock the ground a second time, to turn the whole in; and when the succeeding growth is getting in full bloom to turn that in also (before the Seed begins to ripen): and when the fermentation and putrifaction ceases, to sow the ground in that state, and plough in the Wheat. The other mode is, to sow the Buck Wheat so late as that it shall be generally, about a foot high at the usual seeding of Wheat; then turn it in, and sow thereon immediately, as on a clover lay; harrowing in the Seed lightly, to avoid disturbing the buried Buck Wheat. The last method I have never tried, but see no reason why it should not succeed. The other as I have observed before, I have practiced but the

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Buck Wheat has always stood too long, and consequently had become too dry and sticky, to answer the end of a succulant plant. But of all the improving and ameliorating crops, none, in my opinion, is equal to Potatoes on stiff, and hard bound land (as mine is). From a variety of instances I am satisfied that on such land, a crop of Potatoes is equal to an ordinary dressing. In *no* instance have I failed of good wheat, Oats, or clover that followed Potatoes. And I conceit they give the soil a darker hue.

I shall thank you for the result of your proposed experiment relatively to the winter vetch and Pea, when they are made.

I am sorry to hear of the depredation committed by the weavil in your parts. It is a great calamity at all times, and this year, when the demand for wheat is so great, and the price so high, must be a mortifying one to the farmer. The Rains have been very general, and more abundant since the first of August than ever happened in a summer within the memory of man. Scarcely a Mill dam, or bridge between this and Philada. was able to resist them; and some were carried away a second, and even a third time.

Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her, and unites with me in best wishes for you.

With very great esteem etc.[76]

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 21st of September never came to my hands until yesterday. Had you put it into the Post Office at Fredericksburgh at the date thereof, an answer might have been given to you in the course of last week, according to your

[76] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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request, as I never miss sending to Alexandria every Post day for letters.

I do not recollect the precise expression of my letter to Majr. George Lewis respecting General Lee's sale of the same Lands in Kentucky to you, and me; but sure I am no implication was meant unfavorable to you in the business. The ideas I intended to convey, and which, if the letter was to be examined again I think wd. appear, that I could not conceive that General Lee would, intentionally, make a double sale; that, consequently, there must have been some mistake in the case, and that, unless he had compared the Surveys possessed by you, with those he had of mine, accurately together, and they were found to be the same, other lands might have answered to a general description; and I knew, at least had been told, that General Lee had much land in that part of the Country, in two, three, and five thousand acre tracts. These remarks, therefore, were made to Majr. Lewis without any design to impute blame to you, in a matter which I know must, eventually, unfold itself in a short time.

I told General Lee when he was here, and I wrote the same to Majr. George Lewis a week ago that as the embarrassmt. has been occasioned by a mistake, I would receive other Land in Kentucky, which he said was of superior value, if it shd. be found to be equal in quantity, quality, situation, and other advantages in lieu of the two tracts I hold on Green River, provided a purchase adjoining, which Mr. Lewis was to have made for me, should not have occasioned a fresh difficulty. Majr. Lewis was to be the Umpire betwn. us in this matter and to see that I had full justice in the exchange. Thus the affair stands between General Lee and me, relative to my land on Rough Creek or Green River.

That my title to these tracts are of prior date to yours, and is valid, will admit of no question. I have the original Patents,

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wch were granted to Skinner, dated the 2d of December, 1785, and General Lee's Conveyance of the same to me in 1789; drawn, I presume in regular form and with the proper recitals as it was the work of an eminent Lawyer. The latter, however, has not been taken from the Office of Record, nor should I have recollected that it was yet there but for these occurrences. General Lee however, is as well acquainted with the fact as I am. I never had an idea of taking out a Patent for these lands in my own name; but admitting that this had happened, I should have attended to the recitals therein for the purpose of preserving the date of the original grant and would have risked nothing by a subsequent date, with grants of adjacent lands or with a posterior grant of the same land, if any such had taken place.

If a purchase has been made from Wodrow on my account; and the exchange is concluded with General Lee as before mentioned, you may take it exactly on the terms it stands me. My love to Mrs. Spotswood and the family in which Mrs. Washington joins concludes me Dear Sir, Your etc.[77]

*To ANDREW VAN BIBBER[78]

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1795.

Sir: Your letter, dated Matthews County in Virginia, Septr. 28th, came to my hands yesterday.

I have a tract of land in Gloucester county on Back river, a branch of North river, containing by the Plat four hundred acres; 105 of which, I am informed, is in good white Oak timber. I am inclined to part with this land, because it lyes remote from me; but I am not disposed to give it in exchange for other land equally remote; and of which I have no particular knowl-

[77] From the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1926.
[78] Of Gloucester County, Va.

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edge; but from a general one of the lands in the part of the country you describe yours to be, conceive them to be broken and of indifferent quality. I am etc.[79]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1795.

Dear Sir: Upon my return to this place from Philadelphia, about the middle of last month, I found your letter of the 1st. of September and the sum of Four hundd. and Seventy five pounds ten shillings and two pence which you had deposited in the hands of Mr. Dandridge on account of your collection of my Rents, which will be placed as desired to your credit.

I am sorry you should have been so unsuccessful in purchasing in my life leases; but if I do not misunderstand your meaning, when you say I had limited you to too long a day, viz, the first of September to make these purchases, there surely never was such a mistake as you have committed in this business, or I must have been out of my head when I wrote the letter. So far from restraining you in making purchases until the first of last month, you were told, or at least meant to be told, that if you could not apply the money which was in your hands to this purpose by a certain day (I suppose the first of Septr.) that then, and in that case, I should call for it, as I wanted it for other uses. How this could be deemed limitting you to too long a day I have no conception, when the money was left in your hands for the sole purpose of buying in the leases. I request you to look at my letter again and inform me if it will admit of such a construction as you have given it, if I understand the meaning of yours.

[79] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

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What money you may yet pay, agreeably to the assurance in your letter may be deposited in the hands of Mr. Pearce or in the Bank of Alexandria, giving me an account of the sum.

As land has risen so much, and so suddenly in its price, and my rents bear no proportion thereto; I shall insist, and beg that you will see, not only that the rents are *punctually* paid, but that *all* the covenants in the leases, wtih respect to buildings, planting orchards, making meadows, reserving certain proportions of the land in wood &ca. &ca. are strictly complied with; and I further desire that in cases of life leases, where the occupant can give you no satisfactory evidence of the existence of the lives of the persons therein named, that ejectmts. may be brought in order to make *them* come forward with their proofs; for these leases will never expire if vague information is received and credited, of the lessees being in Kentucky, or the lord knows where. Another thing too I would have minutely looked into, and that is, where there has been a change in the occupants from the original Lessees to know by what authority it has happened; for if I recollect the tenure of my leases there can be no alienation of the property without the consent of land lord under his hand (and I believe) seal.

You say you have repossessed two or three lots in Frederick; and have conditionally rented out two for £35 pounds pr. Ann; but you do not say whether this is the rent for each, or for both. If the latter I should think it inadequate. If the former, I agree to, and ratify the same for the term of ten years. But when leases for that term are given you should stipulate for reasonable and proper improvements, that the tenements may be restored with some advantages. I do not recollect what the quantity of Acres in the Frederk. lots are, and therefore my opinion of the adequacy or inadequacy of the rent of £35

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is mere guess work. All I want, is as much as others gets for lands of the same quantity and quality thereabouts. Whenever you make out a Rental have a column always for the quantity of acres contained in each lot. Give my love, in which your Aunt and the family join, to Mrs. Lewis and be assured of the friendship and regard of Your etc.[80]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1795.

Sir: Your communications of the 2d Inst have been duly received.

General Wayne will, I hope and expect, leave the Garrisons in his advanced Posts sufficiently respectable. In the present uncertainty of what may be the final result of the treaty with Great Britain, and from the intimations of Captn. Brant, we ought not in my opinion to œconomise at too Great a hazard; nor build *too much,* in the *present* moment, on the treaty of peace with the Western Indians.[81]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1795.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 5th. instt. enclosing a Memorial of the same date, came to my hands yesterday.

The latter shall have the best consideration I can give it, between this and Monday next; when, if nothing, unforeseen at present, intervenes to prevent, I shall be in George Town on my

[80] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[81] The draft at this point has the following crossed out: "In a word no uncommon pains are taking to disturb the quiet of this country by enflaming the passions of its citizens and what will be the issue is not easy to predict."

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return to Philadelphia; and will converse fully with you on the subject matter of it. With esteem etc. [H. S. P.]

*To EDWARD CARRINGTON

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 2d. instant came duly to hand, and I shall wait the result of the proposed enquiry, respecting Colo. Innes, which I wish might be soon.

The compliance with one request oftentimes begets another, and that is the case at present. You know, full well, that the office of State is vacant; but you may not know that I find difficulty in filling it. In the appointments to the great offices of the government, my aim has been to combine geographical situations, and sometimes other considerations, with abilities; and fitness of *known* characters. In pursuance of this system, I have tried to bring Judge Patterson[62] Mr. Johnson (of Maryland) and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney of So. Carolina into this office. All have declined; the latter by the Post of Wednesday. I would have made an offer of it to Mr. Henry in the first instance, but two reasons were opposed to it; 1st. ignorance of his political sentiments (for I should consider it as an act of governmental Suicide, to bring a man into so high an office who was unfriendly to the Constitution and laws which are to be his guide) and 2d., because I had no idea he would accept the office; until General (late Govr.) Lee, gave some reasons which have induced me (in a degree) to draw a different conclusion; assuring me at the sametime that he believed

On October 7 Washington wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting that commissions be made out for several minor officials in the revenue service. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[62] William Paterson (Patterson).

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Mr. Henry's Sentiments relative to the Constitution were changed; and that his opinion of the government was friendly.

Of these matters however (so important in their nature) I wish to learn the opinion of others; and of whom can I enquire more likely to know, than yourself?

Let me then come to the point: If in the judgment of yourself and Genl. Marshall Colo. Innes is a fit character for Attorney Genl. of the U. States; Will accept the Office; and enter upon the duties of it without delay; no application is to be made to Mr. Henry, be his sentiments what they may. If on the contrary, that event does not take place; I impose upon you the task, and pray you to have the goodness to forward the enclosed letter to him by Express (the cost of which I will pay) provided you accord in Sentiment with Genl. Lee with respect to the political opinions of that Gentleman; and have reason to believe he has expressed no opinion adverse to the treaty with Great Britain, and is disposed to give active opposition to the adoption of, for that would place both him and me in embarrassed situations.

From the instances which have fallen within your own knowledge, you can form some idea of the difficulties I experience in finding out, and prevailing on characters to fill offices of importance. In the case before us, I am sensible I am imposing a delicate task upon you, but from the peculiar circumstances thereof, it is, in some measure, a necessary one; and having a high opinion of General Marshalls honor, prudence and judgment, I consent to your consulting him on this occasion, as you did in the case of Colo. Innes.

I have, I must confess, but little expectation that Mr. Henry will accept the offer, if it gets to him; and therefore I must look forward to the consequence of his refusal; let me ask therefore if another trial should be made, and a refusal ensue; and ultimately, it should be found eligable to remove the present

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Secretary of War to the Office of State (if it should be agreeable to himself) would you fill his place as Secretary of War?

You will, My dear Sir, perceive that the *whole* of this letter is perfectly confidential, written perhaps with more frankness than prudence, but I rely on your goodness and discretion to appreciate my motives. My letter to Mr. Henry is left open for your perusal, that the whole matter may be before you. If it should go forward Seal it, if not return it to, Dear Sir Your friend etc.[83]

P.S. On Monday I leave this for Phila.[84]

To JOSEPH PIERCE[85]

October 9, 1795.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 29th. Ultimo covering Resolutions of a meeting of the inhabitants of the County of Westmoreland, relatively to the Treaty with Great Britain.

The approbation therein given of this measure, and the assurances of supporting the constituted authorities of our country cannot but be pleasing to all who know the value of regular government.

No wish, while I fill the office I now have the honor to hold, can be more ardent, than that the acts of my administration should give satisfaction to my constituents. The contrary will always give me pain. I know but one sure method to merit the first, or to avoid the latter, and that is, to pursue steadily

[83] Carrington replied (October 13): "We are not without apprehensions, that Genl Lee estimates too highly the affections of Mr. H—— towards the Constitution, General Marshall being, however, decidedly of opinion, in which I cordially joined, that your letter should be forwarded to him, I have this morning dispatched it by Express . . . we have changed the order in which you directed the propositions to Colo. Innes and Mr Henry to stand: the fact is, we have as yet had no opportunity of acting with respect to the first Gentleman, nor do we know when we shall; this was likely to suspend operations longer than the nature and importance of the object admitted." Carrington's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[84] From a photostat of the original in the *Washington Papers*.

[85] Chairman of the meeting of the inhabitants of Westmoreland County, Va.

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such measures (of an Executive nature) as appears to be most conducive to their interest and happiness. This, to the best of my judgment, has been my invariable endeavour, and I cannot but hope, that the ratification of the Treaty (agreeably to the advice and consent of the Senate) will be viewed in this light when it is better understood than it seems to be at present.

For the expression of personal confidence in me, I feel very sensibly. I am etc.[86]

*To PATRICK HENRY

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1795.

Dear Sir: Whatever may be the reception of this letter; truth and candour shall mark its steps. You doubtless know that the Office of State is vacant, and no one can be more sensible than yourself of the importance of filling it with a person of abilities, and one in whom the public would have confidence.

It would be uncandid not to inform you that this office has been offered to others, but it is as true that it was from a conviction in my mind that you would not accept it (until Tuesday last in a conversation with Genl. (late Governor,) Lee he dropped sentiments which made it less doubtful) that it was not offered first to you.

I need scarcely add, that if this appointment could be made to comport with your own inclination it would be as pleasing to me, as I believe it would be acceptable to the public. With this assurance, and under this belief I make you the offer of it. My first wish is, that you would accept it; the next is that

[86] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*, where the address of the inhabitants is also entered.

On October 9 Washington wrote to Bartholomew Dandridge, requesting him to forward letters for John Jay and Dr. Priestly, "but not by Post, for this would be expensive for Pamphlets, wch. I believe they are. . . . I expect to leave this for Phila. on Monday. . . . Make enquiry for good footmen. . . . Let Colo. Pickering know that I was not able to write to him by the Post of this day." This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

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you would be so good as to give me an answer as soon as you conveniently can, as the public business in that departt. is now suffering for want of a Secretary.

I persuade myself, Sir, it has not escaped your observation, that a crisis is approaching that must if it cannot be arrested soon decide whether order and good government shall be preserved or anarchy and confusion ensue. I can most religiously aver I have no wish, that is incompatible with the dignity, happiness and true interest of the people of this country. My ardent desire is, and my aim has been (as far as depended upon the Executive Department,) to comply strictly with *all* our engagemts. foreign and domestic; but to keep the U States free from *political* connexions with *every* other Country. To see that they *may be* independent of *all,* and under the influence of *none.* In a word, I want an *American* character, that the powers of Europe may be convinced we act for *ourselves* and not for *others;* this in my judgment, is the only way to be respected abroad and happy at home and not by becoming the partizans of Great Britain or France, create dissensions, disturb the public tranquillity, and destroy, perhaps for ever the cement wch. binds the Union.

I am satisfied these sentiments cannot be otherwise than congenial to your own; your aid therefore in carrying them into effect would be flattering and pleasing to Dr. Sir &c.[87]

*To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 12, 1795.

Sir: Your letters of the 2d. and 5th. instant came to my hands on thursday last, but it was not in my power, conveniently to acknowledge the receipt of them by the succeeding Post.

[87] Henry replied (October 16), declining the appointment. His letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers.* It was removed from them by Sprague and is now in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A photostat of it is in the *Washington Papers.*

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It is a very singular occurrence that Mr. Pinckney should make use of a cypher to which there is no counterpart, or key in the Office of State! A kind of fatality seems to have pursued this negociation and in short *all* our concerns with Spain from the appointment of Mr. Carmichael under the new government as Minister to that country up to the present day. If the Cyphers which have been furnished Mr. Gouvr. Morris, Mr. Jay, Mr. Adams, and Colo. Humphreys, or any of them are different from those by which the letter of Mr. Pinckney has been tried, let them also be resorted to; otherwise as the business has commenced in error, the continuance therein is highly probable, until that Gentleman is informed of this extraordinary inattention and is thereby led to correct it; of course the most material and interesting parts of his communications will be lost. Enough however appears already to shew the temper and policy of the Spanish Court, and its undignified condt. as it respects themselves, and insultg as it relates to us; and I fear will prove that their late treaty of Peace with France portends nothing favorable to the interests of these United States.

I am glad to find however that matters are going on well in Morocco; but much concerned to hear of the unfavorable decision in the high Court of Appeals on one of the Spoliation Cases in London.

I shall (as mentioned in one of my last letters) set out for Philadelphia this day[88] but business with the Comrs. of the Federal City will detain me in George town tomorrow, and of course keep me a day longer from the seat of government than I expected.

[88] Washington left Mount Vernon, as stated, on October 12 and arrived in Philadelphia on October 20.

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To GEORGE LEWIS

On the Road between George Town
and Baltimore, October 13, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th instant I received after I had commenced my journey for Philadelphia. And being detained on the Road (at Spurriers Tavern by rain), I acknowledge the receipt of it, with a view principally, to let you know that you have furnished me with no data on which to decide whether I will take General Spottswoods horse, or not. You say his price was so far beyond what you conceived to be his value and what I might be inclined to give; and being a year younger than you expected, that you forbore to make the purchase until I should inform you whether his age and price would suit me, but have not mentioned a word what the price is.

Let me know what the price asked is and how he could be got to Phila. with ease and safety; and I shall be better able to decide than I am now. The horse of your Brother Henry was showy when under the Saddle and put upon his mettle; but how he looked in harness I know not. When you write me again, mention the Breed of Gen. Spottswoods horse and what proportion of English blood he has in him, which can easily be ascertained if he raised him, himself. I am etc.[89]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Head of Elk, Monday Even. October 19, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Owing to the bad weather, and the sickness on the road of both Washington[90] and one of the Postilions (Joe) I am no further advanced yet; and do not expect to reach Philadelphia at soonest, before tuesday afternoon.

[89] From a typed copy kindly furnished by William C. Peet, of New York City.
[90] George Washington Parke Custis.

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As my Wheat would be a heavy loss to me, if the Weavil should get much into it; I must again request that no time may be lost in getting it out of the straw, and ground up as fast as the Mill is able to do it. As the River farm has no place in which the threshed Wheat can be secured, let that be the first cleaned and sent to the Mill. At the other places let it be got out of the Straw and lye in the chaff, to be cleaned as fast as the Mill can grind it, and no faster.

I wish also that you would have your Corn taken out of the field as soon as you think it can be done with safety, altho' it may not be dry enough to loft. Nothing injures the growing Wheat among it, more than running Carts over it when the ground is in a freezing, and thawing State. The Wheels, the feet of the Oxen, and [ ][2] those of the People also press [ ][91] about buries, and tares up (when the ground has been frozen, and thawed at top) a great deal of it. Corn this year is drier, I conceive, than is usual at this season. To this cause, or to want, I know not which, I have seen several fields gathered on the Road I came.

Do not delay gathering (before the birds thin them) all the berries of the White thorn and lay up a large store of Cedar berries in due Season. On this subject, and hedging, I shall write to you more fully after I get to Philadelphia; but mention them now that the White thorn berries (which I fancy are rather scarce) may be got while they are in being.

The sooner your Potatoes are up and secured the better. The weather seems to be getting cold; and if it should be freezing, will prevent them from drying and keeping well. Order the Overseers to be particularly attentive where these and corn grow together, to measure each separate from what may grow in other places, that I may know the comparative yield of both.

[91] Mutilated.

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Desire the Gardner not to trim either the Lombardy Poplar or Yellow Willow until the season shall arrive for putting out the cuttings; as I may want them for Hedging. I am etc.[92]

To JAMES MAURY

Wilmington, State of Delaware, October 20, 1795.

Sir: Meeting accidently at this place (as I was returning to Philadelphia from Mt. Vernon) with a Ship, passing for London, I request the favor of you to send me by the first Vessel bound to Potomack River from your port the following Articles, (Viz.). 2 Sacks, say 8 bushels of the field Pea of England.

The like quantity of the Winter Vetch, and

As much of the Succory, or Chicorium Intibus, as will Sow four Acres of Land.

You will readily perceive that the first and last, of these articles must be in this Country by the first of April to be in proper Seed time.

I have to request that none of them be put into the Ships hold. When this is the case, they get heated and the Vegitative properties of the Seed are almost invariably destroyed.

I pray you to be particular attentive in procuring *good* Seed. I shall add no more at present than that I am, etc.[93]

*To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, October 21, 1795.

Sir: In several of the public Gazettes I had read your note to the Editor of the Philadelphia Gazette, with an extract of a

[92] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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letter addressed to me of the 8th. instant; but it was not until yesterday, that the letter itself was received.

It is not difficult, from the tenor of that letter, to perceive what your objects are; but that you may have no cause to complain of the withholding any paper (however private and confidential) which you shall think necessary in a case of so serious a nature, I have directed [that you should have the inspection of][94] my letter of the 22d. of July [agreeably to your request];[95] and you are at full liberty to publish, without reserve, *any*, and *every* private and confidential letter I ever wrote you; nay more, every word I ever uttered to, or in your presence, from whence you can derive any advantage in your vindication.

[I grant this permission, inasmuch as the extract alluded to, manifestly tends to impress on the public mind an opinion that something has passed between us which you should disclose with reluctance; from motives of delicacy which respect me.][96]

You know, Sir, even before the Treaty was laid before the Senate, that I had difficulties with respect to the commercial part of it; with which I professed to be the least acquainted; and that I had no means of acquiring information thereon without disclosing its contents: not to do which until it was submitted to the Senate, had been resolved on. You know too, that it was my determination previous to this submission, to ratify the Treaty if it should be so advised and consented to by that body; and that the doubts which afterwards arose, and were communicated to Mr. Hammond, proceeded from more

[94] In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "a copy of the one you apply for, namely" This is crossed out.

[95] In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written "to be delivered to you." This is crossed out.

[96] The part within brackets is in the writing of Pickering, in the draft, and was substituted for the following which is there crossed out: "I am induced to make this inasmuch as the extract above alluded to appears to me to have a manifest tendency to impress on the public mind an opinion that something misterious has passed between us which you reluctantly bring forward, whilst others are kept back."

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authentic information of the existence of what is commonly called the Provision order of the British [government.][97] And finally, [you know the grounds on which my ultimate decision was taken; as the same were expressed to you, the other Secretaries of departments and the late Attorney general, after a thorough investigation and consideration of the subject, in all the aspects which it could be placed.][98]

As you are no longer an Officer of the government, and propose to submit your vindication[99] to the Public, it is not my desire, nor is it my intention to receive it otherwise than through the medium of the Press. Facts you cannot mistake. and if they are fairly and candidly stated, they will invite no comments.[1]

The extract of your letter to me, dated the 8th. instant, being [published in][2] all the gazettes, I request that this letter may be inserted in the compilation you are now making; as well to shew my disposition to furnish you with every means I possess towards your [vindication],[3] as that I have no wish to conceal any part of my conduct from the public. That public will judge, when it comes to see your vindication, how far, and how proper it has been for you, to publish private and confidential communications, which, oftentimes have been written in a hurry, and sometimes without even copies being taken. And it will, I hope, appreciate my motives, even if it should con-

[97] In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "Cabinet." This is crossed out.

[98] In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "as it has been expressed to you, and to the Secretaries of the other departments in your presence you also know after a thorough investigation and consideration of the subject in all the aspects it could be placed the grounds upon which my ultimate decision was taken." This is crossed out.

[99] At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "against the suggestions contained in the intercepted Confidential letter of the late French Minister."

[1] At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "if they are not, explanations and perhaps references must follow."

[2] In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "on its passage through." This is crossed out.

[3] In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "general letter." This is crossed out.

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demn my prudence, in allowing you the unlimited license herein contained.[4]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, October 25, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: The Post of yesterday, brought me your letter of the 21st instant, and the Reports of the preceding Week.

I am sorry to hear you have been sick, but glad to find you have recovered. That the fly should be much in your Wheat is to be regretted; but proves the necessity of converting it as speedily as possible into flour: or even selling it in grain, if it cannot be ground in time; and a good price can be had for it in that way.

The disappointment you have met with in the Englishman for an Overseer, is more unlucky on acct of the lateness of the season, than for any other reason; but since it has happened, I think you had better take the chance of getting a good one from the Eastern Shore (as you are going there) than to engage an indifferent one before you go.

From George Town, I enclosed you a certificate for Donaldson; and from the head of Elk I wrote you again, and promised to be more full on the subject of Hedging (than which nothing is more interesting to me) when I got to this place; but the pressing, and important business which has accumulated in my absence, will oblige me to postpone it to an hour of more leisure. I shall, however, refer you to a Book (or pamphlet) I sent you some time ago on that subject, containing many useful experiments, and hints; whilst I inform you that you can have no dependence (I presume) on the berry of the White thorn from your friend in Newcastle. I did not come,

[4] In the group of papers labeled "Randolph's Vindication" in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

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it is true, through Newcastle, but I observed all the Hedges about Christiana, and from that to Wilmington, and do not believe a gallon of Seed could be gathered from the whole of them. This makes it more necessary to secure all you can at home; Cedar berries, &ca. &ca.

I send you another Pamphlet on the subject of Manures (which I request care to be taken of.) By reading it attentively at your evening, or leisure hours, you may, by following the precepts contained in it, benefit me, and yourself too, hereafter.

As that trusty old negro Jack has taken leave of the troubles of this world, you must supply his place at the Stable, or rather at the Provender for it: and I should think Allison had better keep the key of the corn loft; for I know of no black person about the house that is to be trusted.

I want a Green Pocket book, wch is to be found in the hair trunk, which is usually put on my writing Table in the Study, with my Land papers. The key of this trunk is under the lid of the writing Table. it is tied to a bunch of other keys, by a twine. This Pocket book is of green parchment, and contains the courses and distances of many surveys of the grounds &ca in, and about my farms. let it be put under a cover, and sent to me by the first Post, with the reports. I am, Your friend and well wisher.

P. S. The Pamphlet on Manures is the newest, and supposed to be from the best source of any that has been written.[5]

*To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, October 25, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 24th[6] has been received. It is full of innuendoes, I shall therefore once more, and for the last time,

[5] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[6] This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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repeat in the most unequivocal terms, that you are at full liberty to publish any thing that ever passed between us, written or oral that you think will subserve your purposes. A conscious rectitude, and an invariable endeavour to promote the honor, welfare, and happiness of this country; by every means in the power of the Executive, and within the compass of my abilities, leaves no apprehension on my mind from any disclosure, whatsoever.[1]

To whom, or for what purpose you mean to apply the following words of your letter "I have been the meditated victim of party-spirit" will be found I presume, in your defence without which I shall never understand them. I cannot conceive they are aimed at me, because an hundred and an hundred times you have heard me lament from the bottom of my Soul that differences of sentiments should have occasioned those heats which are disquieting a country, otherwise the happiest in the world, and you have heard me express the most ardent wish that some expedient could be devised to heal them. The disclosure to me, by an Officer of government, of Mr. Fauchets intercepted letter after the contents were communicated to him, was an act of such evident propriety, that no man of candour, entertaining a proper sense of duty, can possibly condemn: I do not see then how this will apply to this case, more than the first.

You have, Sir, entirely mistaken the principle upon which (in contravention of the opinion of the gentleman, who is discharging the duties of Secretary of State) I gave you the Inspection of what you declared to be the *only* paper you were in want of, to complete your defence. My *sole* motive in furnishing it, was, that it might not be imputed that any thing which

[1] At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "public or private that is founded in truth."

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you conceived necessary to your vindication, was withheld: for however differently the matter may appear in the sequel, I am free to declare that I cannot, at this moment, see what relation there is between the Treaty with G. Britain, and the details and suggestions which are contained in the intercepted letter of Mr. Fauchet. And I am still more at a loss to understand the meaning of these other words in your letter "But I shall disclose even what I am compelled to disclose under the operation of the necessity which you yourself have created" Can these expressions allude to my having put Mr. Fauchet's letter into your hands in presence of the heads of departmts for explanation of the passages which related to your conversations with him? Or to the acceptance of your resignation, voluntarily and unexpectedly offered? Or to the assurance given in my letter of the of Augt.[8] in answer to yours of the [9] (and most religeously observed on my part) not to mention any thing of the matter until you had had an opportunity of clearing it up, whilst you on the other hand were making free communications thereof in all quarters, and intimating to your friends that in the course of your vindication you should bring things to view which would affect me more than any which had yet appeared? if neither of these, nor an expectation that I shd. have passed the matter over unnoticed, or in a private explanation *only* between ourselves, I know nothing to which the sentiment can have the least reference. But I do not write from a desire to obtain explanations; for it is not my meaning nor shall I proceed any farther in discussions of this sort, unless necessity should call for a simple, and candid statement of the business, to be laid before the public.[10]

[8] Aug. 20, 1795, *q. v.*

[9] Aug. 19, 1795, by which Randolph resigned as Secretary of State.

[10] This draft is indorsed by Washington: "This is the rough Draught of a Letter to Edmd. Randolph Esq. But upon re-consideran was not sent to him."

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*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Philadelphia, October 29, 1795.

My dear Sir: Two or three days ago I wrote you a few lines in haste,[11] and promised one more lengthy when I was more at leizure. for this purpose I am now seated.

The letters from young Fayette and Mr. Frestal; my letter to Mr. Cabot; and his answer (all of which are herewith enclosed for your perusal, mine in the rough state it was first drawn, and to be returned when read) will give you a full view of what I have already done in this affair, up to the present moment. I have, unavailingly, owing to accidents, been endeavouring through indirect means, to learn Mr. Adets sentiments relative to the coming over of this young gentleman. But if you, after the information now given; and the reiterated assurance of what I have expressed in my letter to Mr. Cabot, and which I authorise you to repeat to him again, in the very strongest terms you can conceive, should be of opinion that I ought to go further at this time, I will do so at all events: for to be in the place of a father and friend to him I am resolved, under any circumstances. If therefore, as I have just said, you should think that good would come from it; or even consolation flow therefrom to young Fayette and his Tutor; I pray you to send them hither in cog, without delay, that some plan may be fixed upon: in settling of which, I pray you to give me your ideas of that which shall appear most eligable either by them, or previous to their arrival here.

Other matters which I have to communicate, shall become the subject of another letter. I am etc.[12]

[11] Not now found in either the *Hamilton Papers* or *Washington Papers*.
[12] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private and confidential)

Philadelphia, October 29, 1795.

My dear Sir: A voluminous publication is daily expected from Mr. R——. The paper alluded to in the extract of his letter to me, of the 8th. instt., and inserted in all the Gazettes, is a letter of my own, to him; from which he intends (as far as I can collect from a combination of circumstances) to prove an inconsistency in my conduct, in ratifying the Treaty with G. Britain, without making a rescinding (by the British government) of what is commonly called the Provision order, equally with the exception of the 12th. article, by the Senate, a condition of that ratification. Intending thereby to shew, that my *final* decision thereon, was the result of party-advice; and that that party was under British influence. It being a letter of my own which he has asked for, I did not hesitate a moment to furnish him therewith; and to authorise him to publish every private letter I ever wrote, and every word I ever uttered to him, if *he* thought they wd. contribute to his vindication: But the paper he asked for,[13] is but a mite of the volume that is to appear; for without any previous knowledge of mine, he had compiled every official paper (before this was asked) for publication;[14] the knowledge of which can subserve the purposes he has in view; and why they have not made their appearance before this, I know not, as it was intimated in the published

[13] Washington's letter to him of July 22, 1795, *q. v.* Pickering refused to let him see this letter, and Ford notes that Pickering's refusal was on the ground that the letter could have no relation to Fauchet's intercepted despatch of Oct. 31, 1794, "and Mr. Randolph perfectly well knows that his resignation was occasioned solely by the evidence of his criminal conduct exhibited in Mr. Fauchet's letter. The inspection of the President's letter then cannot be necessary for Mr. Randolph's vindication."

[14] Randolph's pamphlet *A Vindication of Mr. Randolph's Resignation* was published in December, 1795.

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extract of his letter to me, that nothing retarded it but the want of the paper then applied for, which was furnished the day after my arrival in this city; where (on the 20th. instt) I found his letter, after it had gone to Alexandria, and had returned.

I shall now touch upon another subject, as unpleasant as the one I have just quitted. What am I to do for a Secretary of State? I ask frankly, and with solicitude; and shall receive kindly, any sentiments you may express on the occasion. That there may be no concealment; and that the non-occupancy of the Office until this time may be accounted for (I tell you in confidence that) Mr. Paterson of New Jersey; Mr. Thos. Johnson of Maryland; Genl. Pinckney of So. Carolina; and Mr. Patrick Henry of Virginia; in the order they are mentioned, have all been applied to and refused. Would Mr. King[15] accept it? You know the objections I have had to the nomination, to office, any person from either branch of the Legislature; and you will be at no loss to perceive, that at the present crisis, another reason might be adduced against this appointment. But maugre all objections, if Mr. King wd. accept, I would look no further. Can you sound, and let me know soon, his sentiments on this occasion. If he should feel disposed to listen to the proposition, tell him *candidly,* all that I have done in this matter; that neither he, nor I, may be made uneasy thereafter from the discovery of it; he will, I am confident, perceive the ground upon which I have acted in making these essays; and will, I am persuaded, appreciate my motives. If he should decline also, pray learn with precision from him, what the qualifications of Mr. Potts[16] the Senator are, and be as diffusive as you can with respect to others, and I will decide on nothing until I hear from you, pressing as the case is.

[15] Rufus King, of New York.
[16] Richard Potts, Senator from Maryland.

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To enable you to judge of this matter with more lights still; I add, that Mr. Marshall of Virginia has declined the Office of Attorney General, and I am pretty certain would accept of no other: And I know that Colo. Carrington would not come into the War department (if a vacancy should happen therein). Mr. Dexter, it is said, would accept the Office of Attorney General. No person is yet absolutely fixed on for that Office. Mr. Smith[17] of So. Carolina would, sometime ago, have had no objection to filling a respectable office under the Genl. government; but what his views might lead to, or his abilities particularly fit him for, I am an incompetent judge: and besides, on the ground of popularity, his pretensions would, I fear, be small. Mr. Chase[18] of Maryland is, unquestionably, a man of abilities; and it is supposed by some, that he wd. accept the appointment of Attorney General. Though opposed to the adoption of the Constitution, it is said he has been a steady friend to the general government since it has been in operation. But he is violently opposed in his own State by a party, and is besides, or to speak more correctly has been, accused of some impurity in his conduct.[19] I might add to this catalogue, that Colo. Innis is among the number of those who have passed in review; but his extreme indolence renders his abilities (great as they are said to be) of little use. In short, what with the non-acceptance of some; the known dereliction of those who are most fit; the exceptionable drawbacks from others; and a wish (if it were practicable) to make a geographical distribution of the *great* officers of the Administration, I find the selection of proper characters an arduous duty.[20]

[17] William Loughton Smith, Representative from South Carolina.

[18] Samuel Chase.

[19] Chase had been accused, in 1778, of using his knowledge as a member of the Continental Congress to speculate in the flour supply.

[20] Hamilton replied (November 5) and, commenting on all of the above-mentioned characters, except Chase, stated: "By the fifteenth I will carefully attend to the other parts of your letters. I regret that bad health and a pressure of avocations will permit nothing earlier." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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The period is approaching, indeed is already come, for selecting the proper subjects for my communications to Congress at the opening of next Session, and the manner of treating them merits more than the consideration of a moment. The crisis, and the incomplete state in which most of the important affairs of this country are, at present, make the first more difficult, and the latter more delicate than usual.

The Treaty with G. Britain is not yet concluded. After every consideration, however, I could bestow on it (and after entertaining very serious doubts of the propriety of doing it, on account of the Provision order) it has been ratified by me: what has been, or will be done by the governmt. of G. Britain relative to it, is not now and probably will not be known by the meeting of Congress: Yet, such perhaps is the state of that business, as to make a communication thereof to the Legislature necessary: whether in the concisest form, or to accompany it with some expression of my sense of the thing itself, and the manner in which it has been treated, merits deep reflection. If good would flow from the latter, by a just and temperate communication of my ideas to the community at large, through this medium; guarded so as not to add fuel to passions prepared to blaze, and at the sametime so expressed as not to excite the criticisms, or animadversions of European Powers, I would readily embrace it. But I would, decidedly, avoid every expression which could be construed a deriliction of the powers of the President with the advice and consent of the Senate to make Treaties; or into a shrinking from any act of mine relative to it. In a word, if a conciliatory plan can be assimilated with a firm, manly and dignified conduct in this business, it would be desirable; but the latter I will never yield. On this head it may not be amiss to add, that no official (nor indeed other) accounts have been received from France of the reception of the Treaty

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with G. Britain, by the National Convention. Perhaps it is too soon to expect any.

Our negociations with Spain, as far as accts. have been recd. from Mr. Pinckney (soon after his arrival there, but after a conference with the Duke de la Alcudia on the subject, before, however, the Peace between France and that Country was publicly known) stands upon the same procrastinating, trifling, undignified (as it respects that government), and insulting as it relates to this country, ground as they did at the commencement of them. Under circumstances like these, I shall be at a loss (if nothing more decisive shall arrive between this and the Assembling of Congress) what to say on this subject, especially as this procrastination and trifling, has been accompanied by encroachments on our territorial rights. There is no doubt of this fact, but persons have, nevertheless, been sent both by Govr. Blount and Genl. Wayne, to know by what authority it is done. The conduct of Spain (after having herself, invited this negociation, and throughout the whole of its progress) has been such, that I have, at times, thought it best to express this sentiment at once in the Speech, and refer to the proceedings. At other times, to say only, that matters are in the same inconclusive state they have been; and that if no alteration for the better, or a conclusion of it should take place before the Session is drawing to a close, that the proceedings will be laid fully before Congress.

From Algiers no late accts. have been received; and little favorable, it is to be feared, is to be expected from that quarter.

From Morocco, the first communications, after our Agent arrived there, were pleasing, but the final result, if any has taken place is yet unknown, and are more clouded.

Our concerns with the Indians will tell well. I hope, and believe, the Peace with the Western Indians will be permanent;

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unless renewed difficulties with G. Britain shd. produce (as it very likely would do) a change in their conduct. But whether this matter can be mentioned in the Speech with propriety before it is advised and consented to by the Senate, is questionable. and nothing, I am sure, that is so, and is susceptible of caval or criticism, will escape the anonymous writers (if it should go unnoticed elsewhere). It will be denominated by these gentry, a bolster. All the hostile Indians to the Southward have renewed the treaties of Amity and friendship with the United States; and have given the best proof in their power of their sincerity, to wit, a return of Prisoners and property; and Peace prevails from one end of our frontier to the other. Peace also has been produced between the Creeks and Chickasaws by the intervention of this government, but something untoward and unknown here, has occasioned a renewal of hostilities on the part of the Creeks.

The Military establishment is of sufficient importance to claim a place in the general communication, at the opening of the Session; and my opinion is, that circumstanced as things are at present, and the uncertainty of what they may be next year, it would be impolitic to reduce it; but whether to express any opinion thereupon, or leave it entirely to their own decision may be considered.

Whether a report from the Secretary of the Treasury relative to Fiscal matters, particularly on the loans of money, and another from the Secretary of War respecting the Frigates, Arsenals, Military Stores directed to be provided; and the train, in wch. the Trade with the Indians is, agreeably to the several Acts of Legislature may not be proper, and to be referred to in the Speech.

Having desired the late Secretary of State to note down every matter as it occurred, proper either for the speech at the opening

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of the Session, or for messages afterwards, the enclosed paper contains everything I could extract from that Office. Aid me I pray you with your sentiments on these points and such others as may have occurred to you relative to my communications to Congress. With affectionate regard etc.[21]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, October 30, 1795.

Gentlemen: Your Letter of the 26 Instant covering one from Genl. U. Forrest of the 24th. came to me by the last post, and as the subject thereof is important, and there is no time to lose, I delay not in giving you my opinion.

From Genl. Forrest's communication, there appears to be every probability that a Loan from the State of Maryland may be effected for the purposes of the Federal City, to the extent you wish. If therefore, upon more mature consideration and enquiry, you concur in opinion that it can be done, I think you ought not to hesitate to make the attempt. I would have you, however, to be fully assured (as far as is possible) of success, before the attempt is finally determined upon; as a failure might be attended with disadvantage to the interests of the City. If the attempt should terminate unfavorably, it will then be time enough, if it should be thought expedient, to make application to the Genl. Government.

The papers which were transmitted to you on Wednesday last by Mr. Dandridge, by my direction, will shew you that your attempt for a Loan in London has issued without success. I am etc.[22]

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[21] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[22] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the District Commissioners* in the Library of Congress.

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*To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Philadelphia, November 1, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favors of the 8th. 13th. and 20th. Ulto. have been duly received; the latter, enclosing one from Mr. Henry. Your motives for forwarding my letter to that gentleman, and transposing the course of the business relative to it, meets my entire approbation; and opening his letter, in answer thereto, was an act of indispensable necessity, resulting therefrom, and of course is approved.

I am not less pleased at the resolution you had taken to proceed no farther with Colo. I——s[23] than merely to sound his inclinations on the subject referred; until you shd. hear further from me. The result however, of your enquiries, be so good as to communicate.

I thank you, my good Sir, for giving me permission to trouble you on similar occasions. I shall certainly avail myself of the indulgence; and as an earnest of my disposition to do it, may I ask you what temper is it expected your Assembly will meet? How will it develope itself? And what is likely to be the progress and issue, as it relates to the General government?

Enclosed is twenty five dollars, cost of the Express, which was sent to Mr. Henry. With very great esteem etc.[24]

*To HENRY WILLIAM DE SAUSSURE

Sunday Morning, November 1, 1795.

Dear Sir: I thank you for the plan of the Santee Canal, which you have had the goodness to send me.

If General Pinckney[25] has gone more into detail, than is

[23] Col. James Innes.
[24] From the original through the kindness of Forest H. Sweet, of Battle Creek, Mich.
[25] Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

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found in the expression of your letter relative to the Estt. at F. Johnson[26] I should be glad to receive an extract thereof; otherwise, the transcript would be unnecessary. It is to be observed, however, that the strength of our garrisons must be proportioned to the means from whence they are drawn.

I cannot in this moment of yr. departure but express my regret, that it was not accordant with your views to remain in the Directorship of the Mint. Permit me to add thereto that yr. conduct therein gave entire satisfaction; and to wish you a pleasant voyage and a happy meeting with your friends in So. Carolina; being with very great esteem etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, November 2, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 19th. and —— Ult. came duly to hand; and I expected 'eer this to have been decisive upon the contents of them; but the case being otherwise, I shall postpone writing fully to you, until the next, or another Post.

It may not be amiss however, briefly to observe, that Colo. Rochfontaine (being in this city) was asked how it came to pass, as he had seen the site at the confluence of the Rivers Potomac and Shenandoah, he had made no mention of it in his general report? His answer was, there was no ground on which convenient buildings could be placed, and assigned other reasons in a written report, which he made. But since the receipt of your last, with a letter from Genl. Darke to the Secertary of War, I have suggested his going there again, in order to view the ground more accurately. This, if nothing more pressing should require his attendance in another quarter, will be the case. I shall defer therefore saying anything further on the sub-

[26] Fort Johnson, S. C.

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ject till this matter is decided. If the Colo. goes at all, he will probably pass through George Town, and if it could be made convenient for Colo. Gilpin (who understands the nature, and application of water well) and yourself, to accompany him, advantages, I am persuaded, would result from the journey. One of the Colos. objections to this site is, that no water work (on acct. of freshes) would be safe there. These lands, however, considering the reservations of the Ferries, buildings, &ca. will come much higher than I had any idea of.

If you have not already agreed for the Rent of my house in Alexandria at Sixty pounds pr Annum, I wish this sum might be compared with other rents, before it is fixed on. I was told by severals as I passed through Alexandria, that I might readily dispose of the lot, if I was so inclined, for £1200: Sixty pounds rent wd. be only an interest of five pr Ct, which is inadequate for house Rent.

Give my love to Fanny and the Children, in which Mrs. Washington joins, and be assured of the sincere esteem etc. [H. L.]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 4, 1795.

Gentlemen: In a letter hastily written to you on the 30th. ulto., I approved the plan of applying to the Legislature of Maryland for a loan of money, agreeably to the suggestion of Genl. Forest, for the purposes of the Federal city: Provided "upon more mature consideration and enquiry, you should concur with him in opinion that it certainly could be obtained." I am in the same sentiment still; but let me entreat you not to be *led into the attempt* upon slight grounds.

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An essay and failure, may be attended with very serious consequences in the other plan, which has been approved; and would weaken, if not altogether destroy, some of your most powerful arguments with Congress. And the prospect of a foreign loan has, as you have been informed by Mr. Wells, proved abortive.

One of your board is much better acquainted with the views of different parts of Maryland, relative to the navigations of the Potomac and Susquehanna than I am; but depend, if ever the subject is discussed in the Legislature thereof, it will be found that wherever the preponderancy of interest lyes, there will be found a majority of votes also. And rely moreover, altho' present appearances may not sufficiently indicate the fact, that the weight of Baltimore will be found against you, and ought to be calculated upon. The intelligent people of that place, however tranquil from the present flourishing state of the Town and Trade, cannot view the progress of the Federal City, and the inland navigation of the Potomack without perceiving the ultimate effect, and wishing to divert the means which would contribute thereto, to another object more interesting to them: I mean, opening the Susquehanna; which is now reviving and getting into activity again; and is, I presume, equally in want of pecuniary aids.

These ideas, upon reflection, have such weight with me, that I could not resist expressing them with more force, and more in detail, than they were conveyed in my former letter. You ought not, in my opinion to proceed on delusive hopes, or on ambiguous encouragements, for the reasons already mentioned; and others might be assigned: But, rather than hazard *a motion,* uncertain in the result, before the ground is safely explored (in both houses) forbear to make it, relying, in preference, on the former plan.

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From Mr. Scotts acquaintance with the individual members of the Legislature, he might (if his visit to Annapolis could be covered by any good pretext) contribute much to a previous knowledge of what would be the probable issue of the attempt at this loan; and advance therein, or retreat, accordingly. With esteem etc.[27]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, November 9, 1795.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 31st ulto. by Mr. Hadfield,[28] has been received. I have since seen Mr. Hoban, and have had a good deal of conversation with both of them, in the presence of each other with the plans before us.

From the explanations of the former, it would seem as if he had not been perfectly understood. or in other words tht. *now* he means no change in the interior of the building, of the least importance; nor any elsewhere, that will occasion delay, or add to the expence; but the contrary; whilst the exterior will in his opinion, assume a better appearance, and the Portico be found more convenient than on the present plan. As far as I understand the matter the difference, lyes simply in discarding the Basement, and adding an Attick story, if the latter shall be found necessary; but this (the attick) he thinks may be dispensed with, as sufficient elevation may be obtained in the manner he has explained it, without; and to add a dome over the open, or circular area or lobby, which in my judgment is a most desirable thing, and what I always expected was part of

[27] From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[28] George Hadfield, an English architect. He had succeeded James Hoban as superintendent of the Capitol building.

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the original design until otherwise informed in my late visits to the City, if strength can be given to it and sufficient light be obtained.

However proper it may have been in you, to refer the decision of the objections of Mr. Hadfield to the Executive I shall give no final opinion thereon.

1. Because I have not sufficient knowledge of the subject, to judge with precision. 2 because the means of acquiring it are not within my reach; 3d. if they were, pressed as I am with other matters particularly at the eve of an approaching, perhaps an interesting Session of Congress I could not avail myself of them; but above all because I have not the precise knowledge of the characters you have to deal with; the knowledge of all the facts which are before you, nor perhaps the same view you can take of the consequences of a decision for, or against Mr. Hadfields proposed alteration; or of his abilities to carry them into execution, if adopted.

I have told him in decisive terms however, that if the plan on which you have been proceeding, is not capitolly defective, I cannot (after such changes, delays, and expences as have been encountered already) consent to a departure from it, if either of these consequences is to be involved: but that if he can satisfy you of the contrary I should have no objection as he conceives his character as an Architect is in some measure at Stake, and inasmuch as the present plan is no bodies, but a compound of every bodies, provided these things as I have just observed can be ascertained to your entire satisfaction. I added further as a matter of material moment, the short term for which he was engaged and what might be the consequence of his quitting the building at the end thereof, or compelling fresh, perhaps exorbitant terms if a new agreement was to be made. to this he

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replied, he would not only promise, but bind[29] himself to stick by the building until it was finished.

On the spot, at the seat of information, with a view of the materials on hand, the facility of obtaining others; with a better knowledge of the only characters on whom you can rely for carrying on the building, than I possess; with other details unknown to me, you can decide with more safety than I am enabled to do, on the measures proper to be pursued under the embarrassments wch. has arisen from this diversity of opinion: That decision be it what it may will be agreement to Gentlemen.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Philadelphia, November 9, 1795.

Sir: I have been favoured with your letter of the 1st. instt. and thank you for the explanations and details given therein. I must however decline giving any decisive opinion on the matter referred to me, by the Board,[30] for the reasons which have been briefly stated in my official letter thereto. to which others might have been added, but the pressure of business at this time would not allow me to be more diffusive, and must plead my excuse for not enlarging to you.

In a decision on the case wch. has been referred to me, much will depend upon the *real* abilities of Mr. Hadfield, of which I have no adequate knowledge. If he is the man of science he is represented to be, and merits the character he brings; if his proposed alterations can be accomplished without enhancing the expence on involving delay; if he will oblige himself to

[29] In the letter sent, which is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge, in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia*, in the Library of Congress, the two words "promise" and "bind" are underscored.

[30] Of Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

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carry on the building[81] to its final completion; and if he has exhibited any specimens of being a man of industry and arrangement I should have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that his plan ought to be adopted; otherwise, his mortification will be great, and it would, in a manner, be defeating the purposes of his coming hither. On the other hand, if there be any cause to suspect him of ignorance, or misrepresentation much caution, and strict investigation ought to be used. With esteem etc.[82]

To ALEXANDER WHITE

Philadelphia, November 9, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your two Letters of the 31 ulto. have been recd. one by the post, the other by Mr. Hadfield: and expecting that this will find you in the federal City, I shall, being much engaged at this time refer you to my official letters to the board; as well on the proposed application for a Loan to the Legislature of Maryland, as on the case of Mr. Hadfield. A private letter of mine of the 4 inst, followed my official one on the first of these subjects: both of which you will see.

If the movements in Maryland are conducted with intelligence, the probable issue of the measure with the legislature of that State may be ascertained before any direct application or commitment is hazarded: and as a Loan is of the utmost importance, two strings may be better than one. The first, in the manner suggested, before the meeting of Congress, if it succeeds, the other may be reserv'd as a dernier resort. if it will not bear to be touched, then there is no other alternative than an application to Congress, a suspension of the plan, or a forced

[81] The United States Capitol.
[82] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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(and most certainly a depreciated) Sale; which tho' slower in its operation, will as effectually work the destruction of it. Of the three, there can be no hesitation in preferring the first of these alternatives. With esteem etc.[33]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 10, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 5th. has been duly received, but nothing was said in it of young Fayette. I am willing, as I said in my last, to receive him under any circumstances, or in any manner you may conceive best; and wish to know what that is.

Having, since I wrote to you on the 29th. Ult. received more agreeable, tho' not conclusive, accounts from abroad, I pray you to suspend your superstructure[34] until you receive a ground plan from me, which shall be in a few days with better, or at least with more ample materials. Yours always etc.[35]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private and confidential)

Philadelphia, November 16, 1795.

My dear Sir: The papers herewith enclosed are so full, on the subject of my former request, that nothing more remains than to refer to them for every information I can give, as the ground work of the Superstructure you are to build. When you are

[33] The contemporary copy is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.
[34] Of the President's message to Congress.
[35] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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done with them be so good as to return the whole to me again, with those sent before; together with the letters respecting young Fayette, and the result, relative to him.

I would beg the favor of you to run your eye over the letter from Madam de Segur and let one of your young men make some enquiry into the truth of her narrative and if found just, to seal and forward my letter to her,[86] safely. The reason why I give you this trouble, is, that applications of the kind have been, and still are very frequent; and in more instances than one, impositions have been practiced on me. If this lady's tale be true, her case is pitiable; and I have only to regret that the frequent calls upon my private purse, renders it inconvenient for me to do more for her than the pittance I enclose to her.

With sincere, and Affectionate esteem etc.

PS. Be so good as to drop me a single line merely to say that this letter and its enclosures have got safely into your hands.[87]

To MEMBERS OF THE DISMAL SWAMP COMPANY

Philadelphia, November 16, 1795.

Gentn: Having disposed of my share and all the interest I have in the Dismal Swamp Company, to Henry Lee Esq. I request that he may, henceforward be considered as being standing in my place. He is not only to receive the profits, which may hereafter arise from that concern, but if anything is due thereto, he is entitled to my share thereof, and is in like manner to pay all unsatisfied demands upon me on this acct. passed and to come. With respect I am etc.[88]

[86] The draft of Washington's letter to Madam Segur is not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[87] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, November 18, 1795.

My dear Sir: Having *no* doubt that the petition contained in the enclosed Gazette, will make its appearance in the Virginia Assembly; and *nearly* as little of its favourable reception in that body, I resolved to give you the perusal of it, at this moment.

But my principal view in writing to you now, is, to request that you would desire young Fayette and his Tutor to proceed to this place without delay; having resolved, unless some powerful reasons can be suggested to the contrary, to take them at once into my family.

The young gentleman must have experienced some unpleasant feelings already from being kept at a distance from me, and I feel as unpleasantly as he can do, from the same cause.[39]

Very sincerely and Affectionately etc.[40]

To GENERAL DE BOUVINGHAUSEN

United States, Philadelphia, November 18, 1795.

Sir: I received your Excellency's letter dated at Stoutgard the 10th of June last, in which you ask my aid in securing to you the payment of certain legacies which you represent to have been destined for yourself, your three sons, and Mr. Franc, by

[39] Hamilton replied to this (November 19): "I find, that in other minds and judicious ones, a doubt is entertained whether at the actual crisis it would be prudent to give *publicity* to your protection of him. It seems to be feared, that the factious might use it as a weapon to represent you as a favourer of the Anti Revolutionists of France; and it is inferred that it would be inexpedient to furnish at this moment any aliment to their slanders . . . perhaps it will be then best for you to write Young La Fayette a Letter, affectionate as your feelings will naturally lead you to make it, announcing your resolution to be to him a parent and friend; but mentioning that very peculiar circumstances of the moment impose on you the necessity of deferring the gratification of your wishes for a personal interview; desiring him at the same [time] to concert with me a plan for disposing of himself satisfactorily, and advantageously, in the mean time." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[40] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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the will of the late major general baron de Steuben, my highly valued friend.

Immediately on the receipt of your letter, I caused enquiry to be made about the subject of it; and lose no time to transmit to you the result. This you will find in the enclosed letter from Colonel Pickering (Secretary of War) to Colo. Benjamin Walker, in his answer, and in a copy of the Baron's last will.

If the fortune of the Baron de Steuben had been as ample as his heart was benevolent, none of his friends would have been omitted in the dispositions of his will. I have the honor etc.[41]

*To CHARLES LEE

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 19, 1795.

Dear Sir: The Office of Attorney Genl. of the U. States is not yet filled. The reason why it is not Genl. Lee, at my request, will frankly relate to you.

If you can make it convenient, and agreeable to yourself to accept it,[42] I should derive pleasure therefrom, both from public and private considerations; being persuaded that the duties of the Office will be well executed, and because I should be much gratified in having a confidential Officer about me, on whom I could rely. With very great esteem etc.

*To JOHN EAGER HOWARD

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 19, 1795.

Dear Sir: It may seem strange to those, not acquainted with circumstances, that the office of State should be so long vacant; but causes, not within my power to controul, have occasioned it.

[41] The draft is in the writing of Timothy Pickering.

[42] Lee's letter of acceptance, dated Nov. 30, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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I have, at length, proposed to Colo. Pickering, to go from the War office into that of State, and he has agreed to do so:[43] this, of course makes a vacancy in the former. Permit me, to ask you, Sir to fill it.

I shall use no other arguments to induce your acceptance than such as candour dictates, these are, that I believe the duties of the Office will be well executed by you: that I conceive the appointment will be very agreeable to the public; and though of lesser consideration in a national point of view because it would be very agreeable to Dr. Sir, etc.[44]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, November 20, 1795.

Sir: In my communications to Congress at the opening of the ensuing Session, I shall refer to the department of War for information on the following Subjects.

A statement of our present Military force; terms of its establishment, and the disposition thereof, generally.

A statement of the fortifications, and defences of the several harbours, agreeably to acts of Congress passed for that purpose.

The present state of the frigates; prospect of their completion; and causes wch. have impeded the progress of them.

The measures which have been pursued to obtain proper sites for the Arsenals, and for replenishing the Magazines.

The train in which the 50,000 Drs. granted for the purpose of an Indian Trade is.

And, as there are some defects in the establishment of the Mint; or at least some legislative provisions are wanting to

[43] Pickering had acted as Secretary of State, in addition to his duties as Secretary of War, since August 9. He was nominated Secretary of State, December 9, confirmed and commissioned, Dec. 10, 1795.

[44] See Washington's letter to John Eager Howard, Nov. 30, 1795, *post*.

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render it more complete, and to restrain some interferences which seem to be arising in other Quarters; it is necessary that the report of the late Director, with a supplimentary one from the present, if he has anything to add thereto should be prepared previous to the opening of the Session.

All these statements must be in readiness to accompany the Speech, as the latter, without them, will be incomplete, one sett for each house must be prepared.

*To GEORGE WASHINGTON MOTIER LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, November 22, 1795.

My dear Young friend: It was with sincere pleasure I received your letter from Boston, and with the heart of affection I welcome you to this Ctry.

Considerations of a political nature added to those which were assigned by yourself, or Mr. Frestal of a sort more private, but not less interesting to your friends left no doubt in my mind of the propriety of your remaining incog until some plan advantageous to *yourself* and eligable for *all* parties could be devised for bringing you forwd. under more favorable auspices.

These considerations, and a journey which I was in the act of commencing when I received your letter (and from which I have not long since been returned to this city) restrained me from writing to you at that time, but I imposed upon Mr. Cabot a gentleman of character and one in whose discretion I could place entire confidence, the agreeable office of assuring you, in my name, of my warmest affection and support; of my determination to stand in the place of a father and friend to you undr. all cirs; requesting him at the sametime to make arrangemts. with Mr. Frestal for supplying your immediate

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wants, and moreover that he would add thereto every thing consolatory on my part. All of which I now renew to you in the most unequivocal terms; for you may be assured, that the sincere, and affectionate attachment which I had to your unfortunate father, my friend and compatriot in arms will extend with not less warmth to you, his son; do not therefore ascribe my silence from the period of your interview with Mr. Cabot to a wrong cause.

The causes, which have imposed this conduct on us both, not being entirely removed, it is my desire, that you, and Mr. Frestal would repair to Colo Hamilton, in the City of New York, who is authorised by me to fix with you on the most eligable plan for your present accommodation. This gentleman was always in habits of great intimacy with, and is warmly attached to, Mr. de la Fayette; you may rely therefore on his friendship and the efficacy of his advice.

How long the causes wch. have withheld you from me may continue, I am not able, at this moment to decide but be assured of my wishes to embrace you so soon as they shall have ceased and that whenever the period arrives I shall do it with fervency. In the meantime let me begin with fatherly advice to you to apply closely to your studies that the season of your youth may be improved to the utmost; that you may be found the deserving Son of a meritorious father. Adieu; believe me to be as you will always find me Your Affecte. friend.

*To FELIX FRESTEL

[November 22, 1795.]

Sir: The enclosed letter for Mr. Fayette is left open, and put under cover to you, for your perusal. Indeed it is intended as much for your information as his, as it will render a second

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letter in detail unnecessary, at a time when I am under a pressure of public business, occasioned by the approaching Session of Congress.

To the above, I shall just add, that as the Preceptor, and friend of Mr. de la Fayette I pray you to count upon my attentions and friendship; and learn that it is my expectation, that you wd. accompany him into whatever situation he may be placed; and moreover that you will let me know, at all times, what he has occasion for. I am etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, November 22, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I received no letter from you yesterday, nor the Saturday before; nor have I written to you for several weeks, on account of your proposed journey to the Eastern Shore: postponing it until the time I expected your return from thence.

In one or two of the letters I have written to you since I left Mount Vernon, it was intimated that I should be more full on the subject of Hedging whenever I was at leizure. This will hardly happen I believe, while I am in this city. But, as there is nothing which has relation to my farms, not even the Crops of grain, that I am so solicitous about as getting my fields enclosed with live fences, I cannot too often, nor too strongly inculcate this doctrine upon you; and I find it more necessary to do so, as it is considered in the light of a subordinate object, and made to yield to other things.

It is a useless expence and trouble, to buy, or gather seeds; to put them in the ground; or to transplant from the nursery to the hedge; if they are not attended to afterwards with as much care as a field of Indian corn: nay, as plants in a garden; until they are too powerful to be injured by Weeds or grass.

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Unless this is done, every antecedent expence and labour is thrown away; and disagreeable as that is, it is not to be compared with the loss of time: in effecting this plan year after year.

At least 15 years have I been urging my managers to substitute live fences in lieu of dead ones, which, if continued upon the extensive scale my farms require, must exhaust all my timber; and to this moment I have not one that is complete: nor never shall, unless they are attended to in the manner before mentioned; and if plants die, to replace them the next season; and so on, until the hedge is close, compact, and sufficient to answer the purpose for which it is designed.

It may be said, and with great truth, that the latter part of last summer was so wet as to render it impossible to keep weeds and grass under, of course that labour was greatly multiplied; but this is an evidence also of another thing which I have been equally anxious to adopt, and that is to tend less ground and to manure and cultivate the smaller quantity higher. Sure I am, the profit will be greater: why else will a particular spot of ground, if it is well dressed and prepared, yield five and twenty or 30 bushels of Corn or Wheat to the acre, when the circumjacent land (of the same original quality) will not, at most, produce more than eight or ten? The reason is obvious; the ground, in the first place, is kept clean; is well prepared; and well cultivated; and in the next place, the manure which is put on it, and would hardly be perceived in an hundred acre field, would be sensibly felt in one of 50 acres. But this is not all: a small quantity of ground, proportioned to the force that is to cultivate it, may, under all circumstances of weather, be kept in order; for if the weather be bad, it still can be managed; if good, it not only can be managed, but time is afforded to get up mud, and do many other advantageous things on a farm;

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Whereas a full crop, is hardly manageable as it ought to be even in good weather, and is much injured, if not lost, if it proves unfavorable; whilst everything else of smaller magnitude is ruined.

The last paragraph is a digression from the subject of Hedging, but serves to shew my ideas of aiming at too much; at the same time that it serves to prove what are really facts, that hedging, ditching, and putting my Meadows in prime order, would be infinitely more agreeable to me, and ultimately more profitable, than an attempt to encrease my crops of grain. But to return to hedging.

At the proper season let all the English thorn, in the Vineyard, be transplanted (I do not care where, so it be) to places where the strongest inner fences are required. Let the long string of fence from the gate at Union farm (going into No 1) quite through to the branch be planted with the honey locust, if they are of a size proper for it. Continue the Cedar hedge from the Barn at that place, to the Mill road; or as far as you have plants for the purpose: and then (on both sides of that lane) in ground properly spaded, or well hoed up, and formed into a bed, sow the Cedar berries in a single straight row; after rubbing off the skin, or glutinous substance which surrounds the seed, in the manner which has been mentioned to you; and which, it is said, is necessary to their vegitation. But with respect to these, and other berries, the vegitation of which is said to be promoted by their passing through the body of an animal, I have often thought, that if they were put into a pot with water sufficient to moisten the whole mass of them, and kept warm (but not hot) from morning until night, and then to have the skin rubbed off as before mentioned, it would answer as well as the heat of the animal body. The only danger would

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be from carelessness, in letting them get so hot as to destroy vegitation altogether.

The cross fences, where hogs are not suffered to run, might, in my opinion be made from the cuttings of the Lombardy poplar; which being quick of growth would, wattled in the manner I have described to you, soon form a hedge against horses, cattle and Sheep: and might, if necessary hereafter, have a hedge, on the contrary side of the ditch made of locust, Thorn, Cedar, or something equally substantial, tho' of slower growth; to aid, or supply the place of the first, if it should decay soon. But it is useless to attempt more than can be executed; and a folly to begin on fresh ditches until those which are planted on the old ones, are made good.

No hedge, alone, will, I am persuaded, do for an outer inclosure, where *two,* or four footed hogs find it convenient to open a passage; but I am equally satisfied, that any hedge will do for partition fences, where no hogs are suffered to run; consequently those that can be quickest raised, will answer my purposes best; if I am even obliged to have a double hedge, in the manner before mentioned, to be ready for the decline of the first.

On board of Captn Ellwood, I sent you, to the care of Mr. Hartshorn, or Colo Gilpin, 28½ lbs of Chicory seed in a bag; twelve pounds of wch I request you to sow in the lot by the Spring, at Mansion house (once intended for Lucern) as early in March as you can get the grd in perfect order. You may sow it alone, or with Oats, very thin; The residue of this Seed, sow, at the rate of twelve pounds to the Acre, on the Wheat in the lot by the Barn at Dogue-run. Let this be done in February or March, on a slight Snow; and sow the residue of that lot, at the same time with Lucern seed, at the rate of at least 15 lbs to

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the acre. The rest of the Lucern seed you may sow at the other farms, as convenient to the Stables as you can find suitable grd; that it may be handy for soiling the work horses in its green State; or where else you please.

The Chiccory being a very light seed, should be mixed with Sand, ashes, or something of this sort to make it sow regular. The enclosed paper will give you some idea of its worth. So much has been said of the value of this plant for feeding horses, cattle and Sheep, that I have been induced to give upwards of Six pounds Sterling for the small bag I now send you. this circumstance alone, makes particular attention to it necessary.

Give the small papers enclosed, to the Gardener, and desire him to pay particular attention to them.

The small sketch enclosed, shews the course of the Road from the white gates in Front of the Mansion house, to the end of the little old field; and I could be glad, if circumstances would allow it, if a new road was opened along the streight line A B if you can, without a compass, lay it off streight or if it was to strike the road a little beyond the field, next the Gum spring no other disadvantage than lengthening of it, and increasing the labour in opening of it, would result therefrom. This road would leave out a small part of the inclosure by the White gates, and would cross a rising by the little old field; but if I have a proper recollection of it, the assent in going to the house will be very easy, and none elsewhere in returning and a good view of the house would be had from it. If this road was opened, a substantial ditch (as soon as the ditchers could be spared from the Mill race) might be thrown up along it as far as the fence at C where the line I laid off the morning I left home, would meet it, and a good fence be placed thereon.

Urge the Miller to grind up my Wheat as fast as he can. Let me know how you have gone on in getting it out and what the

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quantity, and quality of it is likely to be. How your Corn turns out. And how the growing Crops look. I wish you well, and am etc.

P.S. Have you got an Overseer yet for Union Farm.[48]

*To GEORGE CLINTON

Philadelphia, November 23, 1795.

dear Sir: Your favor of the 17th. instt. has been duly received. My enquiries after your health have been constant, and my concern for the ill state of it, has been sincere.

I beg you will not suffer the business, in which I am jointly interested, give you a moments concern; for I can assure you it has never occupied a thought of mine. But in order to make the transacting of it as easy to yourself, and as convenient to others as the case is susceptible of, I will empower you to act for me in the same manner you do for yourself, if there is no incompatibility in it, and I see none. And as you know what kind of instrument is necessary to vest a power adapted to the nature of the case I will execute and return to you any one you may draw or have drawn and forwarded to me. and with the number of witnesses to it you shall advise. I pray you to present me respectfully to Mrs. Clinton and the family, in which Mrs. Washington unites, and that you would believe me to be, as I really am etc.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, November 23, 1795.

My dear Sir: Enclosed are letters for Mr. de la Fayette, and his Tutor. I leave them open for your perusal; and notwith-

[48] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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standing the request in my letter of the 18th. I shall cheerfully acquiesce in any measures respecting them which you (and others with whom you may be disposed to consult) may deem most eligable.

As there can be no doubt, that the feelings of both are alive to every thing which may have the semblance of neglect or slight; and indeed, expectant as they must have been (without adverting perhaps to the impediments) of an invitation to fly to me without delay; and distressing and forlorn as the situation of of one of them is. It is necessary that every assurance and consolation should be administered to them. for these reasons I pray you to send my letters to them by Express, the expence of which I will repay[46] with thankfulness.

The doubt which you have expressed of the propriety of an open and avowed conduct in me towards the son of Mr. de la Fayette, and the subject it might afford to malignancy to misinterpret the cause, has so much weight that I am distrustful of my own judgment in deciding on this business lest my feelings should carry me further [than][47] prudence (while I am a public character) will warrant.

It has, however, like many other things in which I have been involved, two edges, neither of which can be avoided without falling on the other.

On one side, I may be charged with countenancing those who have been denounced the enemies of France; on the other with *not* countenancing the Son of a man who is dear to America.

When I wrote to you last I had resolved to take both the Pupil and Tutor into my own family, supposing it would be most agreeable to the young gentlemen, and congenial with friend-

[46] The word "repay" is written twice.
[47] The word "than" was inadvertently omitted.

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ship; at the sametime that it would have given me more command over him, been more convenient, and less expensive to myself than to board them out. But now, as I have intimated before, I confide the matter entirely to your decision, after seeing, and conversing with them.

Mr. Adet has been indirectly sounded on the coming over of the family of Fayette *generally,* but not as to the *exact* point; his answer was, that as France did not make war upon women and children he did not suppose that their emigration could excite any notice. The case however, might be different, if one of them (with his Tutor, whose character, conduct and principles may, for ought I know to the contrary, be very obnoxious) was brought into my family, and of course, into the company that visited it. But as all these things will be taken into consideration by you I shall not dwell upon them, and only add that with esteem, regard and sincere affn. I am etc.

PS. I have no doubt but that young Fayette and his Tutor might be boarded at German Town, or in the vicinity of this City,[48] and would be at hand to receive assistance and advice as occasion[49] might require although he might not be a resident under my roof.[50]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, November 28, 1795.

My dear Sir: If indisposition, or business of a pressing nature, should have prevented your looking into, and making a digest of the papers I sent you on the 16th. Inst I pray you to return them to me by the *first* Post after this letter is received.

[48] The draft has "conveniently."

[49] The draft has "occasionally if bringing them into my family should be thought ineligable."

[50] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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The meeting of Congress is near at hand, and there is good reason to expect a punctual attendance of the members. I should be extremely unwilling therefore to be unprepared for this event; and shall endeavor to work the materials (no copy of which I have by me) into the best form I am able so soon as I get them, if it is yet to do.

You omitted in your last, to enclose the letters of Mr. Fayette, his tutor and Mr. Cabot, to me, and the copy of mine to the latter. I beg they may accompany the other papers.

I am always and Affectionately Yours.[51]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, November 29, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: The Post of yesterday brought me your letter of the 26th instt, and the weekly reports of the 14th and 21st preceeding.

I am sorry to find by them that you have had much sickness among the Negros; and that the prospect of a good crop of Corn, as well as a tolerable one of Wheat, is diminishing. As the latter of these is got out, and the horses more at liberty, I hope every diligence will be used in breaking up the fields intended for the ensuing crop, when the weather will permit, and the ground is in order for it: and I request also, that your shelters may be prepared for the reception of the different species of Stock, at all the Farms, by, or before the season requires them to be used; for if Cattle suffer in the early part of winter, they rarely recover it.

By the Report from River farm I perceive shelter is preparing for the horses at that place; what this means I know

[51] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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not; but it reminds me of the necessity of giving substantial shores to the Barn and Stables there: otherwise some very disasterous accident may befal not only the horses, but negros also, in a high wind, or storm.

How does Neale seem to conduct himself in the superintendence of the workmen? I hope he will have a little more command over them than Green or Donaldson had; or he will get little more done by them than they did. I take it for granted, that by his agreement, he is to work himself. If then, you perceive any backwardness in his doing so remark it to him at first appearance of it. Neglects of this sort come on by degrees; and increase in proportion as they are overlooked. Let him cast his eyes round, and see what kind of work is, or will be wanting, and can be done within doors; when the weather is such as to prevent the people from working out to advantage, or with safety; and have the materials previously lodged in the Barn, to go on with it.

Among these, I recollect at once, Dormant Windows to the Barn; Sashes to the Kitchen where they are falling to pieces; Plank tried up for the North end of the Mansion house, that is now rotting; (Plank of a proper width and thickness, and without sap should be procured for this purpose) the same for the Pillars of the covered way going into the Kitchen; Locust Posts for the circle before the door; Harrows, Ploughs, rakes, Wheels, carts, cradles for the grain harvest; repairing spinning Wheels, and many other things which might be thought of, and executed within, to advantage, when the weather is rainy, snowy, very sloppy, or very cold. If he is a man of industry and contrivance, and will give his attention to these things, more will be done by a proper arrangement of the business than can easily be conceived; and by such an arrangement,

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work might be so forwarded out of the rough, as to superceed the necessity perhaps, of calling hands in, to do occasional jobs; or keeping Isaac and Joe always, as it were, from the other people, doing less, it is persumed than they would do, if they were under the eye of a man who would attend to them.

Enclosed, is a copy of the Invoices of the Oznabrigs and Blankets; there are, as you will perceive, two kinds of each. let the better sort of Linnen be given to the grown people, and the most deserving; whilst the more indifferent sort is served to the younger ones and worthless. I request that particular attention may be given to the cutting out that, there may be neither waste, nor embezzlement if it is cut out by the Negro women; and a piece at a time only used. the number of yards in each piece appears by the Invoice, and it is easily ascertained what quantity a shirt; or shift will take (of the different sizes) and calculate thereby. All my People that want blankets (or rather all that are entitled to them) must be supplied; giving to the grown Negros the larger, or better sort. Many have lately been given to the laying in Women, but where the children are living, it is usual to let them come in with the rest notwithstanding; but where dead, not to do so.

You said something to me about Sein twine, but nothing was fixed that I recollect; if you depend upon me for it, not a moment is to be lost in sending round, as the Navigation may soon be stopped by Ice.

Have you recd the money yet for my flour and Corn? Pay yourself, Overseers, and everything I owe with it, and let me know how the acct stands. Charge Peter to be careful of the Mules designed for my own particular use, and let the number be Six instead of four. I am &ca.[52]

[52] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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*To JOHN EAGER HOWARD

Philadelphia, November 30, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letters of the 23d and 26th. instt.[53] from Annapolis, the first was received with regret: the second,[54] assuredly with pleasure; for while I am resolved that no mis-representations, falsehoods or calumny; shall make me swerve from what I conceive to be the strict line of my duty. and while I have suffered the various attempts to destroy all confidence in my administration to pass without notice it is grateful to my feelings to find so respectable a body as the Legislature of Maryland appreciating my motives at the expence of my Calumniators.

Had your inclination, and private pursuits permitted you to have accepted the Office that was offered to you, it would have been a very pleasing circumstance to me, and I am persuaded as I observed to you on a former occasion a very acceptable one to the public, but the reasons which you have assigned for not doing it carry conviction along with them, and must however reluctantly be submitted to. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, November 30, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. instt. came safe to hand, but not before the 26th.

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[53] Howard's letter, dated November 23, declining the appointment of Secretary of War, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[54] Of November 26 inclosed the resolve of the Maryland Legislature of November 25, "observing with deep concern a series of efforts by indirect insinuations or open invective, to detach from the first magistrate of the union, the well earned confidence of his fellow citizens, think it their duty to declare, and they do hereby declare their unabated reliance on the integrity, Judgement and patriotism of the President of the United States." Howard's letter and copy of the resolve are in the *Washington Papers*.

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I intended to have written to you by Colo. Rochfontaine, but he went off unknown to me. Upon a second view of the site at the conflux of the Rivers Potomack and Shenandoah, with the explanations he will receive from Colo. Gilpin and yourself, I hope and expect the advantages of that spot will strike him more favorable than was indicated in his report; and that something will be decided upon with precision.

It is with great pleasure I learn from your letter, that the River between the Great and little falls has been so much improved this fall; and that the prospect of getting some of the new shares subscribed for by the Maryland Assembly, is so good. I wish as good a disposition may be found in the other Assembly: but above all, that your means would enable you to proceed vigorously to the improvement of the navigation of the Shenandoah River: for that is the source from whence the wealth of the city is to be derived.

If the directors are in want of such a character, as the enclosed letter describes, it may be well to intimate it as soon as possible; as it is not likely that Mr. Myers[55] will remain long unemployed, as lock navigation is contemplated in many parts of this country. I have not seen the Gentleman myself, but understand from others that his testimonials are full and ample; and that he is a stout, healthy man.

Your opening Mr. Maurys letter to me, was a thing of necessity, and I am obliged to you for having done so; and for the steps you took consequent thereupon, and for sending the Goods to Mount Vernon.

If I cannot get a full rent for my house in Alexandria I must be content with what it will fetch, and that without delay; otherwise (the cold weather approaching) the Inclosures will

[55] Christopher Meyers. He was appointed superintendent of the Potomac Company work in January, 1796.

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be torn down for firing, if no other damage is sustained from its being left unoccupied. My love to Fanny and children. I am etc.

PS. I will send to and will have a little conversation with, Mr. Myers, and give you the result in my next. [H.L.]

To ROBERT MORRIS

Philadelphia, December 3, 1795.

Dr. Sir: I can add nothing in support of the Extract on the other side, that was not contained in a former letter from me to you on the same subject. But I would thank you for letting me know what answer I shall return to the Commissioners of the federal City.

Their credit *I know* has been stretched to its utmost limits, in order to keep the wheels moving, even in the slow and unprofitable manner in which they have turned. I am etc.[56]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 6, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: I have received your letter of the 29th ulto with the Weekly reports of the 6th and 28th of November.

I wish you to make the most you can of the materials you have within yourself, for hedging; for I do not believe you will get any berries of the white thorn from Newcastle; for the reason given in one of my letters after I arrived at this place, from Mount Vernon last. I hope the Ceder berries will prove better than you expect, that you may, as soon as possible, get the lane from the New barn (at Union farm) to the Mill road compleated with that kind of hedge on both sides. Make good

[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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the hedges as you proceed, in this business; otherwise you will have incomplete ones, that will render no service. Anxious as you perceive I am, to substitute hedges instead of dead fences, I have full confidence in your exertion to raise them; and as I have observed in a former letter, those for inner and cross fences, where no hogs are suffered to run, may, in the first instance, be made of anything that suits the soil, and will grow quick; altho' they should be doubled hereafter. When I speak of tilling too much land, and add that a less quantity would be more productive than the greater quantity, which is now tended in order to produce an adequate quantity of Corn; I would not be understood to mean that half of one of your fields in the condition they now are, would produce you as much corn (or other things) as the whole of it would do; that would be absurd; but for example, suppose ten hands are necessary to cultivate a field of 100 acres (more or less) and that this quantity, in common seasons, can be cultivated as well as usually is done, but will allow no spare time, or labour for any extra work, my idea then is, that by turning half that field out, or rather let it be enclosed, and nothing suffered to run upon it (that all the grass and weeds it produces may fall, rot, and ameliorate the soil). Cultivate the other half better than you *could* do the whole; and bestow all the spare labour of the ten hands in raking, scraping, collecting and carrying out all the manure that can be obtained from Swamps, ponds, trash about houses, and in the lanes, and even leaves and rotten trees from the woods; that more would be produced in a year or two from the 50 acres, than is now got from the hundred: and by this means gullies might be filled up and many other improvements made on the farms that are not, nor cannot be done, with a full crop. Is it not better to get 20 bushels of Wheat (and other things in proportion) from one acre of ground,

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than from two acres? That worn land, undressed and unimproved will not produce the latter, that is 20 bushels, and when well cultivated and manured, will produce the former, is known to every man who has attended to these things; and yet, such is the force of habit, that people will not quit the path their fathers have trod in. Besides, I am so well persuaded of the injury, land sustains from the growth of Indian Corn, I never desire to raise more than enough for my Negros (who cannot do without it;) substituting other species of food for Horses, Hogs &ca or even buying, from the sales of other crops if I cannot do this.

I agree to your putting No 1 at Muddy-hole in Oats instead of No 6. And one object which makes me desirous of clearing ground at the Mansion house, and tilling what has been grubbed, is to relieve those worn out fields at the former; whilst the principal design, is to improve and beautify the grounds about the latter. But altho' I wish very much to have the new road (sketched out in one of my late letters,) opened, yet I cannot, nor do not request it, if more essential matters are to suffer by it. perhaps it may be done on a streight line from the sweep by the white gates, to the intersection of the proposed road. and the fence, which was marked out the morning I left home.

I am glad to hear that your growing grain looks well. take care to make drains, in time, to take the water from all low places; and let me know, as soon as the matter is ascertained, the amount of your Wheat and Corn Crops at each place; and in each field; if the accts have been kept distinct. I remain your friend and well wisher

P. S. What Hogs have you put up for Porke? and when will they be fit to kill?[87]

[87] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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To JAMES MADISON

Sunday afternoon, December 6, 1795.

Dear Sir: The papers, of which I was speaking to you on friday evening, are herewith sent.

In looking over Sir John Sinclair's letter[58] (since I spoke to you on this subject) I perceive it is to a *committee* I am at liberty to communicate the extracts. This however, I consider as sufficient authority to give you the perusal of them; as the project, if it can be accomplished, in this country, must be put in train. When you have read, and considered the Papers, I would thank you for their return with your sentiments thereon.[59]

*To GOVERNOR JOHN HAWKINS STONE

Philadelphia, December 6, 1795.

Dear Sir: By thursdays Post I was favoured with your letter of the 27th Ulto. enclosing a declaration of the General Assembly of Maryland.[60] At any time the expression of such a sentiment would have been considered as highly honorable and flattering: at the present, when the voice of malignancy is so high toned, and no attempts are left unessayed to destroy all confidence in the Constituted authorities of this country it is peculiarly grateful to my Sensibility; and coming spontaneously, and with the unanimity it has done from so respectable a representation of the People it adds weight, as well as pleasure to the Act.

I have long since resolved (for the present time at least) to let my calumniaters proceed, without taking notice of their

[58] Of July 18, 1795, in the *Washington Papers.*

[59] From the printed text in the *Washington-Madison Papers,* sales catalogue, 1892.

[60] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.* (See Washington's letter to John Eager Howard, Nov. 30, 1795, *ante.*)

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invectives myself, or by any other with my participation or knowledge. Their views, I dare say are readily perceived by all the enlightened and well disposed part of the Community; and by the Records of my Administration, and not by the voice of faction I expect to be acquitted or condemned hereafter.

For your politeness in making the unofficial and friendly communication of this act, I pray you to receive my thanks; and assurances at the sametime of my being, with very great esteem etc.

SEVENTH ANNUAL ADDRESS

United States, December 8,[61] 1795.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, and House of Representatives: I trust I do not deceive myself, while I indulge the persuasion, that I have never met you at any period, when more than at present, the situation of our public affairs has afforded just cause for mutual congratulation; and for inviting you, to join with me, in profound gratitude to the Author of all good, for the numerous, and extraordinary blessings we enjoy.

The termination of the long, expensive and distressing war in which we have been engaged with certain Indians North west of the Ohio, is placed in the option of the United States, by a treaty, which the Commander of our Army has concluded, provisionally, with the hostile tribes in that Region.

In the adjustment of the terms, the satisfaction of the Indians was deemed an object worthy no less of the policy, than of the liberality of the United States, as the necessary basis of durable tranquility. This object, it is believed, has been fully attained.

[61] A committee of Congress having informed the President (December 7) that a quorum of both Houses were ready to receive his communications, the President informed the joint committee that he would make his communication to Congress "in the Chamber of the House of Representatives tomorrow at 12 o'clock." On that occasion the President was attended by the Secretaries of the Treasury and War.

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The articles agreed upon, will immediately be laid before the Senate, for their consideration.

The Creek and Cherokee Indians, who alone of the Southern tribes had annoyed our frontier, have lately confirmed their pre-existing treaties with us; and were giving evidence of a sincere disposition to carry them into effect, by the surrender of the prisoners and property they had taken: But we have to lament, that the fair prospect in this quarter, has been once more clouded by wanton murders, which some Citizens of Georgia are represented to have recently perpetrated on hunting parties of the Creeks; which have again subjected that frontier to disquietude and danger; which will be productive of further expense; and may occasion effusion of blood. Measures are pursuing to prevent, or mitigate, the usual consequences of such outrages; and with the hope of their succeeding, at least to avert general hostility.

A letter from the Emperor of Morocco, announces to me his recognition of our Treaty made with his father, the late Emperor; and, consequently the continuance, of peace with that Power. With peculiar satisfaction I add, that information has been received from an Agent, deputed on our part to Algiers, importing, that the terms of a Treaty with the Dey and Regency of that country, had been adjusted in such a manner, as to authorise the expectation of a speedy peace; and the restoration of our unfortunate fellow-citizens from a grievous captivity.

The latest advises from our Envoy at the Court of Madrid, give moreover, the pleasing information, that he had received assurances of a speedy, and satisfactory conclusion of his negociation. While the event, depending upon unadjusted particulars, cannot be regarded as ascertained, it is agreeable to cherish the expectation of an issue, which securing amicably,

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very essential interests of the United States, will at the same time lay the foundation of lasting harmony with a power, whose friendship we have uniformly, and sincerely desired to cultivate.

Though not before officially disclosed to the House of Representatives, you, Gentlemen, are all apprized, that a Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation has been negotiated with Great Britain; and that the Senate have advised and consented to its ratification, upon a condition which excepts part of one article. Agreeably thereto, and to the best judgment I was able to form of the public interest, after full and mature deliberation, I have added my sanction. The result on the part of His Britannic Majesty, is unknown. When received, the subject will, without delay be placed before Congress.

This interesting summary of our affairs, with regard to the foreign powers, between whom and the United States controversies have subsisted, and with regard also to those of our Indian neighbours, with whom we have been in a state of enmity or misunderstanding, opens a wide field for consoling and gratifying reflections. If by prudence and moderation on every side, the extinguishment of all the causes of external discord, which have heretofore menaced our tranquillity, on terms compatible with our national rights and honor, shall be the happy result; how firm and how precious a foundation will have been laid for accelerating, maturing and establishing the prosperity of our country!

Contemplating the internal situation, as well as the external relations of the United States, we discover equal cause for contentment and satisfaction. While many of the nations of Europe, with their American Dependencies, have been involved in a contest unusually bloody, exhausting and calamitous; in which the evils of foreign war have been aggravated by

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domestic convulsion and insurrection; in which many of the arts most useful to society have been exposed to discouragement and decay; in which scarcity of subsistence has embittered other sufferings; while even the anticipations of a return of the blessings of peace and repose, are alloyed by the sense of heavy and accumulating burthens, which press upon all the departments of industry, and threaten to clog the future springs of Government: Our favored country, happy in a striking contrast, has enjoyed general tranquility; a tranquility the more satisfactory, because maintained at the expense of no duty. Faithful to ourselves, we have violated no obligation to others. Our Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures, prosper beyond former example; the molestations of our trade (to prevent a continuance of which, however, very pointed remonstrances have been made) being over-balanced by the aggregate benefits which it derives from a Neutral position. Our population advances with a celerity, which exceeding the most sanguine calculations, proportionally augments our strength and resources, and guarantees our future security. Every part of the union displays indications of rapid and various improvement, and with burthens so light as scarcely to be perceived; with resources fully adequate to our present exigencies; with Governments founded on genuine principles of rational liberty, and with mild and wholesome laws; is it too much to say, that our country exhibits a spectacle of national happiness never surpassed if ever before equalled?

Placed in a situation every way so auspicious, motives of commanding force impel us, with sincere acknowledgment to heaven, and pure love to our country, to unite our efforts to preserve, prolong, and improve, our immense advantages. To cooperate with you in this desirable work, is a fervent, and favorite wish of my heart.

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It is a valuable ingredient in the general estimate of our welfare, that the part of our country, which was lately the scene of disorder and insurrections, now enjoys the blessings of quiet and order. The misled have abandoned their errors, and pay the respect to our Constitution and laws which is due from good citizens, to the public authorities of the society. These circumstances, have induced me to pardon, generally, the offenders here referred to; and to extend forgiveness to those who had been adjudged to capital punishment. For though I shall always think it a sacred duty, to exercise with firmness and energy, the Constitutional powers with which I am vested, yet it appears to me no less consistent with the public good, than it is with my personal feelings, to mingle in the operations of government, every degree of moderation and tenderness, which the national justice, dignity and safety may permit.

Gentlemen: Among the objects which will claim your attention in the course of the session, a review of our Military establishment is not the least important. It is called [for] by the events which have changed, and may be expected still further to change, the relative situation of our frontiers. In this review, you will doubtless allow due weight to the considerations, that the questions between us, and certain foreign powers, are not yet finally adjusted; that the war in Europe is not yet terminated; and that our Western Posts, when recovered, will demand provision for garrisoning and securing them. A statement of our present military force will be laid before you by the department of war.

With the review of our army establishment, is naturally connected that of the Militia. It will merit inquiry, what imperfections in the existing plan, further experience may have unfolded. The subject is of so much moment, in my estimation, as to excite a constant solicitude that the consideration of

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it may be renewed, till the greatest attainable perfection shall be accomplished. Time is wearing away some advantages for forwarding the object, while none better deserves the persevering attention of the public councils.

While we indulge the satisfaction, which the actual condition of our Western borders so well authorizes, it is necessary that we should not lose sight of an important truth, which continually receives new confirmations, namely, that the provisions heretofore made with a view to the protection of the Indians, from the violences of the lawless part of our frontier inhabitants are insufficient. It is demonstrated that these violences can now be perpetrated with impunity. And it can need no argument to prove, that unless the murdering of Indians can be restrained, by bringing the murderers to condign punishment, all the exertions of the government to prevent destructive retaliations, by the Indians, will prove fruitless; and all our present agreeable prospects illusory. The frequent destruction of innocent women and children, who are chiefly the victims of retaliation, must continue to shock humanity; and an enormous expence to drain the Treasury of the Union.

To enforce upon the Indians the observance of Justice, it is indispensable that there shall be competent means of rendering justice to them. If these means can be devised by the wisdom of Congress; and especially if there can be added an adequate provision for supplying the necessities of the Indians on reasonable terms, (a measure the mention of which I the more readily repeat, as in all the conferences with them they urge it with solicitude) I should not hesitate to entertain a strong hope, of rendering our tranquility permanent. I add with pleasure, that the probability even of their civilization is not diminished, by the experiments which have been thus far made under the auspices of Government. The accomplishment of

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this work, if practicable, will reflect undecayed lustre on our national character, and administer the most grateful consolations that virtuous minds can know.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: The state of our revenue with the sums which have been borrowed and reimbursed, pursuant to different acts of Congress, will be submitted from the proper Department; together with an estimate of the appropriations necessary to be made for the service of the ensuing year.

Whether measures may not be advisable to reinforce the provision for the redemption of the public debt, will naturally engage your examination. Congress have demonstrated their sense to be, and it were superfluous to repeat mine, that whatsoever will tend to accelerate the honorable extinction of our Public Debt, accords as much with the true interest of our country, as with the general sense of our Constituents.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and House of Representatives: The Statements, which will be laid before you relative to the Mint, will shew the situation of that institution; and the necessity of some further Legislative provisions for carrying the business of it more completely into effect; and for checking abuses which appear to be arising in particular quarters.

The progress in providing materials for the Frigates, and in building them; the state of the fortifications of our harbours; the measures which have been pursued for obtaining proper sites for Arsenals, and for replenishing our Magazines with military stores; and the steps which have been taken towards the execution of the law for opening a trade with the Indians; will likewise be presented for the information of Congress.

Temperate discussion of the important subjects, which may arise in the course of the Session, and mutual forbearance where there is a difference of opinion, are too obvious, and necessary

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for the peace happiness and welfare of our country, to need any recommendation of mine.[82]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Friday, December 11, 1795.

Dr. Sir: I learn with concern that the statements from the W. department referred to in my Speech to Congress, are not yet handed in; and that some members are ascribing delay of business, to the want of the information which has been promised, and have been expecting. I request they may be presented without delay. I am etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 13, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 6th instt, enclosing the weekly reports, has been duly received.

I am glad to find by it that the sickness among my people is abating. If Cyrus continues to give evidence of such qualities as would fit him for a waiting man, encourage him to persevere in them; and if they should appear to be sincere and permanent, I will receive him in that character when I retire from public life, if not sooner. To be sober, attentive to his duty, honest, obliging and cleanly, are the qualifications necessary to fit him for

[82] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 12, at noon, the Senate waited upon the President at his house, when the Vice President delivered him an address in reply to his, to which the President made a formal rejoinder.

On December 17, at noon, the House of Representatives waited on the President at his house, when the Speaker delivered him an address, in reply to the President's address to Congress, to which the President made a formal rejoinder.

These addresses and rejoinders are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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my purposes. If he possesses these, or can acquire them, he might become useful to me, at the same time that he would exalt, and benefit himself.

When you receive the money for my last years flour and Corn, I wish that every demand, of whatsoever nature or kind, may be discharged. I never like to owe anything, lest I might be called upon for payment when I am not possessed of the means. A Dun, would not be agreeable to me, at any time; and not to pay money when it is due, and might really be wanting, would hurt my feelings.

Wheat in this market is at from 15 to 20/. pr bush, and flour thirteen dollars and an half pr barrl. Probably this may be occasioned by the desire of Shipping it before the frost sets in, to stop the Navigation. I therefore request that the Miller would exert himself in grinding mine; and if you can get the above price (allowing for the deduction of freight from Alexandria to this City) to sell, on a reasonable credit, all the flour he has, or can get ready, at that price.

I will make enquiry for Sein twine and if it is to be had on better terms here than in Alexandria, and a Vessel offers (which is not the case at present) I will send a quantity round.

Two more mules (altho' they may be older than the four now up) may be turned over to Peter. Let him chuse those which are most promising, and nearest in colour. I am &ca.[62]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, December 14, 1795.

Gentlemen: Your Letter of the 9th. Instant, covering Mr. Law's of the 2d. with your answer, has been received.

[62] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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At present I decline giving any opinion upon the subject of Mr. Law's letter, as you say the state of your finances renders it impracticable to execute the object of his wishes. When you are in a situation to begin the opening of the avenues, it is presumed those which will be more immediately useful, will be first cleared. I am etc.[64]

To THE CITIZENS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA[65]

Philadelphia, December 16, 1795.

Gentlemen: I received with great satisfaction your obliging and affectionate letter dated the 2d instant at Winchester, inclosing a resolution of the citizens of Frederic county, who met the preceding day at the County Court-House, expressing their entire approbation of my conduct, in ratifying the treaty lately negotiated between the United States and Great Britain.

Next to the approbation of my own mind, arising from a consciousness of having uniformly, diligently and sincerely aimed, by doing my duty, to promote the true interests of my country, the approbation of my fellow citizens is dear to my heart. In a free country, such approbation *should* be a citizen's best reward; and so it *would* be, if Truth and Candour were always to estimate the conduct of public men. But the reverse is so often the case, that he who, wishing to serve his country, is not influenced by higher motives, runs the risk of being miserably disappointed. Under such discouragements, the good citizen will look beyond the applauses and reproaches of men, and perse-

[64] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[65] Addressed to Gen. Daniel Morgan, Charles M. Thornton [Thruston], Robert White, jr., Charles Magill, and Joseph Caldwell, the committee which forwarded the resolution.

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vering in his duty, stand firm in conscious rectitude, and in the hope of [an] approving Heaven.[66]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, December 20, 1795.

Mr. Pearce: Having received neither the Weekly reports nor a letter from you yesterday, as usual, I fear you are unwell, or something else is the cause of it, as I got other letters by the Southern Mail.

Flour keeps up to 13½ dollars pr barl. If I have any therefore on hand, to dispose of, I wish it were sold at that price, on a reasonable credit; allowing for the freight to this place; which is all that the purchaser ought to require, unless he contends for Insurance also. One cause for this price is, to get it out before the frost sets in, so as to impede the Navigation. Whether a fall afterwards may be permanent, or not, I will not undertake to decide; but I had rather sell at that price than run the hazard of its doing it.

I could buy Sein twine in this city at ¾ this money, but no Vessel offers for Potomack, and probably will not before the river closes; you must do therefore what seems to you best under these circumstances, that is to buy there, weight, and take the chance of getting it from hence in time, or to rent the Landing for a certain sum; obliging the Hire'er of it, to furnish you from the first running, with as many Shad and Herrings

[66] The draft is in the writing of Timothy Pickering.

On December 18 Rev. Hezekiah Balch, then in Philadelphia, wrote the President that his congregation "was poor, but we always have been, and I hope always shall be, firm, and unshaken friends to the president, and the federal constitution. It was my congregation, and their neighbours, who under providence, defeated Forgueson, at Kings mountain. But if our children are to be brot, up in ignorance, we cannot expect that they will understand the nature of true liberty. I mean to wait on the members of Congress with our Subscription; The presidents name, at the head of our Subscription, would be of unbounded Service." Dandridge had noted on this letter "The President gave 100 Dollars."

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as you usually put up for family use. Sometime last year, I wrote you a letter on this subject which may contain (altho' I dont know that it does) some useful ideas, if the latter mode should be preferred. I am your friend and well wisher.[67]

*To GOVERNOR JOHN JAY

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 21, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your two letters of the 14th. instant came duly to hand.

With respect to Mr. Pickman,[68] I beg you to be persuaded, that if all things in his favor are equal, your mentioning of him will have its weight. But, in appointments of the kind he solicits, many matters must be attended to; and as I am sure we have both the same wishes respecting them, namely, to fix on characters who under all circumstances are most likely to answer the objects of their appointment and to meet general approbation, I must endeavor to be circumspect in the selection; and that I may have the greater variety to chuse from, I would thank you and my other friends for giving me the names of such Gentlemen as may occur, and are most prominent and fit for Comrs.

My information with respect to the general disposition of the people accords with yours and I have little doubt of a perfect amelioration of sentiment after the present fermentation (which is not only subsiding but changing) has evaporated a little more. The dregs, however, will always remain and the slightest motion will stir them up. With sincere esteem etc.

[67] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

[68] A Salem (Mass.) merchant, who wished to be appointed one of the commissioners for settling the claims of British merchants under Jay's treaty.

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*To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 22, 1795.

My dear Sir: I am become so unprofitable a corrispondent, and so remiss in my corrispondencies, that nothing but the kindness of my friends in overlooking these deficiencies, could induce them to favor me with a continuance of their letters; which, to me, are at once pleasing, interesting, and useful. To a man immersed in debt, and seeing no prospect of extrication but by an act of insolvency (perhaps absolvency would be a better word) I compare myself: and like him too, affraid to examine the items of the account, I will, at once, make a lumping acknowledgment of the receipt of many interesting private letters from you, previous to your last arrival in England; and will begin with those of the 3d. of July and 22d. of Augt. subsequent thereto.

As the British government has repealed the order for seizing our Provision Vessels, little more need be said on that head than that it was the *principle* which constituted the most obnoxious and exceptionable part thereof; and the predicament in which this country was thereby placed in her relations with France. Admitting therefore that the compensation to *some* individuals was adequate to what it might have been in another quarter, yet the exceptions to it on these grounds, remained the same.

I do not think Colo. Innes's report to the Govr. of Kentucky was entirely free from exceptions; but let the report be accompanied with the following remarks. 1, That the one which Lord Grenville might have seen published, was disclaimed by Colo. Innes as soon as it appeared in the public Gazettes, on account of its incorrectness. 2. An irritable spirit at that time

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pervaded all our people at the Westward, arising from a combination of causes (but from none more powerful than the analogous proceedings of Great Britain in the North, with those of Spain in the South, towards the United States (and their Indian borderers) which spirit required some management and soothing. But 3. and principally, Lord Grenville if he had adverted to the many remonstrances which have gone from this country against the conduct of his own; which I will take the liberty to say has been as impolitic for their Nation (if Peace and a good understanding with this, was its object) as it has been irritating to us. And that it may not be conceived that I am speaking at random, let his Lordship be asked if we have not complained, that some of their naval Officers have insulted and menaced us in our *own Ports?* That they have violated our national rights, by searching Vessels, and impressing Seamen within our acknowledged Jurisdiction? and in an outrageous manner have seized the latter by *entire crews* in the West Indies, and done the like, but not so extensively, in all parts of the World? That the Bermudian Privateers, or to speak more correctly, Pirates; and the Admiralty Court of that Island, have committed the most atrocious depredations and violences on our Commerce in capturing, and in their adjudications afterwards, as were never tolerated in any well organized or efficient government? That their Governor of Upper Canada has ordered, in an official, and formal manner, Settlers within our own territory (and far removed from the Posts they have withheld from us) to withdraw, and forbid others to settle on the same? That the persons to whom their Indian Affairs are entrusted, have taken unwearied pains, and practiced every deception to keep those people in a state of irritation and disquietude with us; and, to the *last* moment, exerted every nerve

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to prevent the Treaty which has lately been concluded between the United States and them, from taking effect?

These complaints were not founded in vague and idle reports, but on indubitable facts. Facts not only known to the government, but so notorious as to be known to the people also; who charge to the last item of the above enumeration, the expenditure of a million, or more dollars annually, for the purpose of self defence against Indian tribes thus stimulated, and for chastising them for the ravages and cruel murders which they had committed on our frontier Inhabits. Our Minister at the Court of London has been directed to remonstrate against these things, with force and energy. The answer, it is true, has been (particularly with respect to the interferences with the Indians) a disavowal. Why then are not the Agents of such unauthorised, offensive, and injurious measures, made examples of? For wherein, let me ask, consists the difference *to us* between their being the acts of government, or the acts of unauthorised Officers, or Agents of the government; if we are to sustain all the evils which flow from such measures?

To this catalogue may be added, the indifference, nay more than indifference, with which the government of Great Britain received the advances of this country towards a friendly intercourse with it; even after the adoption of the present Constitution, and since the operation of the government; and also, the ungracious and obnoxious characters (rancorous refugees, as if done with design to insult the country) which they have sent among us as their Agents; who retaining all their former enmity, could see nothing through a proper medium, and becoming the earwigs of their Ministers (who bye the by does not possess a mind capacious enough, or a temper sufficiently conciliatory, to view things and act upon a great and liberal scale) were always labouring under some unfavorable information

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and impression; And, probably not communicating them in a less exceptionable manner than they received, or conceived them themselves.

I give you these details (and if you should again converse with Lord Grenville on the subject, you are at liberty, unofficially, to mention them, or any of them, according to circumstances) as evidences of the impolitic conduct, for so it strikes me, of the British government towards these United States; that it may be seen how difficult it has been for the Executive, under such an accumulation of irritating circumstances, to maintain the ground of neutrality which had been taken; at a time when the remembrance of the aid we had received from France in the Revolution, was fresh in every mind, and when the partizans of that country were continually contrasting the affections of that people with the unfriendly disposition of the *British government.* and that too, as I have observed before, while the recollection of their *own* sufferings during the War with the latter, had not been forgotten.

It is well known that Peace has been (to borrow a modern phraze) the order of the day with me, since the disturbances in Europe first commenced. My policy has been, and will continue to be, while I have the honor to remain in the administration of the government, to be upon friendly terms with, but independant of, all the nations of the earth. To share in the broils of none. To fulfil our own engagements. To supply the wants, and be carriers for them all: being thoroughly convinced that it is our policy and interest to do so; and that nothing short of self respect, and that justice which is essential to a national character, ought to involve us in War; for sure I am, if this country is preserved in tranquillity twenty years longer, it may bid defiance, in a just cause, to any power whatever, such, in that time, will be its population, wealth, and resource.

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If Lord Grenville conceives that the United States are not well disposed towards Great Britain, his candour, I am persuaded, will seek for the causes; and his researches will fix them as I have done. If this should be the case, his policy will, I am persuaded, be opposed to the continuance, or renewal of the irritating measures which I have enumerated; for he may be assured, tho' the assurance will not, it is probable, carry conviction with it from me to a member of the British administration, that a liberal policy will be one of the most effectual means of deriving advantages to their trade and manufactures from the people of the United States; and will contribute more than any thing else, to obliterate the impressions which have been made by their late conduct towards it.

In a government as free as ours where the people are at liberty, and will express their sentiments, oftentimes imprudently, and for want of information sometimes unjustly, allowances must be made for occasional effervescences; but after the declaration which I have here made of my political creed, you can run no hazard in asserting, that the Executive branch of this government never has, nor will suffer, while I preside, any improper conduct of its officers to escape with impunity; or will give its sanctions to any disorderly proceedings of its citizens.

By a firm adherence to these principles, and to the neutral policy which has been adopted, I have brought on myself a torrent of abuse in the factious papers in this country, and from the enmity of the discontented of all descriptions therein: But having no sinister objects in view, I shall not be diverted from my course by these, nor any attempts which are, or shall be made to withdraw the confidence of my constituents from me. I have nothing to ask, and discharging my duty, I have nothing to fear from invective. The acts of my Administration will appear when I am no more, and the intelligent and candid part

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of mankind will not condemn my conduct without recurring to them.

The Treaty entered into with G. Britain has (as you have been informed) undergone much, and severe animadversion; and tho' a more favorable one were to have been wished, which the policy perhaps of Great Britain might have granted, yet the demerits thereof are not to be estimated by the opposition it has received; nor is the opposition sanctioned by the great body of the yeomanry in these States: for they (whatever their opinion of it may be) are disposed to leave the decision where the Constitution has placed it. But an occasion was wanting, and the instrument by those who required it, was deemed well calculated for the purpose of working upon the affections of the people of this country, towards those of France; whose interests and rights under our treaty with them, they represented as being violated; and with the aid of the Provision order, and other irritating conduct of the British Ships of War, and agents, as mentioned before, the means were furnished, and more pains taken, than upon any former occasion, to raise a general ferment with a view to defeat the Treaty.

But knowing that you have other corrispondents who have more leizure, and equally capable of detailing these matters, I will leave you to them, and the Gazettes, for fuller information thereon; and for a more minute account of the prevailing politics. And thanking you for the interesting information, and opinions contained in your letter of the 22d. of August,[69] I shall only add that with sincere esteem etc.

PS. We have not heard through any other channel than your letter, of the intended resignation of Mr. Skipwith,[70] and of the proposed recommendation of Mr. Montflorence.[71]

[69] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[70] Fulwar Skipwith. He was Consul General of the United States to France. The Skipworth mention is in Morris's letter of August 23, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

[71] J. C. Montflorence, of North Carolina.

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*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, December 22, 1795.

My dear Sir: Have you seen or heard more of young Fayette since you last wrote to me on that subject? Where did he go to? Did you deliver him the letter I sent under cover to you for him?[72] His case gives me pain, and I do not know how to get relieved from it. His sensibility I fear is hurt, by his not acknowledging the receipt of my letter to him; and yet, if considerations of a higher nature are opposed to a more uncovert countenance, it must be submitted to. If he wants money, I am ready to furnish it.

'Ere this, I presume you have seen the long promised vindication,[73] or rather accusation. What do you think of it and what notice should be taken of it? You are fully acquainted with my Sentiments relative to the rival and warring powers of F. and E;[74] and have heard as strong sentiments from me with respect to both, as ever he did. His declaration, that he has always opposed to the Commercial part of the Negociation is as impudent and insolent an assertion, as is false, if he means more than that it was contingent (as the Instructions to Mr. Jay declare) and to apply the knowledge of it to me. But if you have seen his performance, I shall leave you to judge of it, without any comments of mine.[75] With much sincerity and truth I am always and Affectly Yours.[76]

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[72] Young Lafayette's letter, in answer to Washington's of November 22, is dated December 25, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

[73] Edmund Randolph's.

[74] France and England.

[75] Hamilton answered (December 24): "I have read with care Mr. Randolph's pamphlet. It does not surprise me. I consider it as amounting to a confession of guilt; and I am persuaded this will be the universal opinion. His attempts against you are viewed by all whom I have seen, as base. They will certainly fail of their aim, and will do good, rather than harm to the public cause and to yourself. It appears to me that, by you, no notice can be or ought to be taken of the publication. It contains its own antidote." He had written also "Young Fayette is now with me." Hamilton's letter is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. It was removed from the *Washington Papers* by John C. Hamilton.

[76] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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*To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Philadelphia, December 23, 1795.

Dear Sir: Receive my thanks for your obliging favor of the 6th. instant, and for other unacknowledged lettrs. of antecedent date.

As, except in a single instance, they contained information only, nothing more was necessary than to know they got safe to hand: this they did, and I feel myself much obliged in your attention to my request; as I always shall be for such communications as you may think, interesting or satisfactory for me to know, while I remain in my present Station.

It had been expected that the Senate would not confirm the appointment of Mr. ——[77] and so it has happened. This induced me to delay the nomination of a Successor to Mr. Blair;[78] And as the Department of War is yet unfilled; I am waiting (expected) information to make a general arrangement, or rather distribution of these offices before I decide upon either seperately. With sincere esteem etc.

To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Philadelphia, December 24, 1795.

Sir: If I was more deserving of so interesting and valuable a correspondence as yours, your letter of the 6th. of Decr. last year, would not have remained until this time unacknowl-

[77] John Rutledge. On December 15 the Senate declined to confirm his nomination as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

[78] John Blair, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Carrington's letter to Washington, Nov. 18, 1795, says: "Will you be so good as to pardon my presumption in offering to your consideration for a vacancy which I learn has taken place, a character lately under your contemplation for another? I allude to the resignation of Judge Blair, and to Colo. Innes as his successor. Genl Marshall and myself have had a private consultation on the subject of mentioning the latter Gentleman to you." Carrington's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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edged. The truth, is so little time is at my disposal for private gratifications, that it is but rarely I put pen to paper for purposes of my own.

This is offered as an apology for what might otherwise have the appearance of neglect: and when it is accompanied with an assurance which I make with sincerity, that I highly esteem your correspondence and wish you to continue it, I hope it will be accepted.

I am sorry you discontinued the publication of the Bee. I always thought, and still think it an entertaining and useful work; And if you should renew it in any manner whatsoever, I wish to be considered as a Subscriber, and to have it sent to me accordingly. Or if your attention is turned into another channel, as you have intimated, and the result is to be handed to the world, I should like to be a partaker of the information and pleasure it will give. The 16. 17. and 18 vols. of the Bee, have never reached me; and which is still more to be regretted in lending out the others the 12th. and 13th. are lost.

No pursuit is more congenial with my nature and gratifications, than that of agriculture; nor none I so much pant after as again to become a tiller of the Earth. Any books therefore on this subject giving the *principles* and combining practice with theory, will always be as pleasing as they must prove instructive to me; whose whole life in a manner having been little less, than a continued bustle, I must now benefit from the studies and experience of others, but a remnant of it being left to essay either myself.

Sir John Sinclair has been extremely good in sending me the agricultural Surveys of the Counties in England and Scotland. This goodness meets, as it justly merits, my warmest thanks. I have laid them by for a moment of more leisure, and when that arrives I shall read them with much pleasure.

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Peat I am persuaded is rare in this Country; I do not think however that it is entirely without it, but as ages must pass away before there will be an occasion for such a substitute it would hardly attract notice, even if it was more abundant: but the want of this substance does not render your treatise on Peat-moss less curious or acceptable.

I have no inclination to touch, much less to dilate on politics. For in politics, as in religion my tenets are few and simple: the leading one of which, and indeed that which embraces most others, is to be honest and just ourselves, and to exact it from others; medling as little as possible in their affairs where our own are not involved. If this maxim was generally adopted Wars would cease, and our swords would soon be converted into reap-hooks, and our harvests be more abundant, peaceful, and happy. 'Tis wonderful it should be otherwise and the earth should be moistened with human gore, instead of the refreshing streams, wch. the shedders of it might become, instruments to lead over its plains, to delight and render profitable our labours. But alas! the millenium will not I fear appear in our days. The restless mind of man can not be at peace; and when there is disorder within, it will appear without, and soon or late will shew itself in acts. So it is with Nations, whose mind is only the aggregate of those of the individuals, where the Government is Representative, and the voice of a Despot, where it is not.

The sample of the cloth which you were pleased to send me (made from the wool which grows at the bottom of the hair of the common Goat) is indeed curious. For softness nothing can exceed it, and the colour is pleasing. How it will wear I know not, and presume the manufactory is on a small scale.

I felt both gratified and obliged in the recommendation of John Bell, in your letter of the 10th of May; and endeavour'd

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as far as circumstances at the time would permit to provide for him. I offered to place a farm of more than Six hundred acres, with six plows and a number of labourers under his superintendance; at the lay usually given, and to find him in provisions &c. according to the custom of the Country; but as it was in the occupation of another, whose term would not expire until the month of December, he at first hesitated and afterwards declined the offer: intimating that he would return back to Scotland, and that a number of honest and reputable farmers, were disposed to emigrate to this Country, if they could set down at *once* on *improved* farms, at a moderate rent, and for a term of years. I told him that it had been in my contemplation, to let, the farms around my Mansion house (four in number) provided the *whole* were taken by men of competent means, to the size of them; or, by numbers, with smaller means, if they would associate and migrate in a body; after some one in whom they *could* and would confide, should first view the premises, and report to them that they were susceptible of such divisions, as would accommodate each family, with the quantity of arable land wanted. And (as I do not mean to do it myself) that they were also to erect such buildings as would satisfy themselves; and that in the latter case (perhaps in the former also) I would give Leases for fourteen years. I shewed him a connected plan of the several farms, with which he seemed pleased, and I intended to have had some further conversation with him on the subject; particular with a view to impress upon him, in case he went back, not to consider anything that had passed between us, as an attempt on my part to invite emigrants who were not predisposed, or indeed who had not actually resolved to transplant themselves, to America, and might wish (if of the latter description of farmers,) to settle in a compact body, where they might have an easy and free intercourse with each other. But

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something, I do not now precisely recollect what, interrupted the business at that time, and I have not heard since whether he returned to Scotland, or is yet employed in the investigation of some other part of these U. States.

I have been thus particular lest if the former be the case, he may, from an unfinished and inconclusive conversation, draw deductions which might eventually embarrass himself, me, or others; and for this reason it is, as you had an agency in introducing him to me, I give you the trouble of these details. Not that I am indisposed to rent my farms in either of the ways, and on the terms which have been mentioned, if it could be unexceptionably accomplished, and mutually pleasing and advantageous to all parties: and having gone so far into an explanation of this matter, I will go further; and as a Letter written two years ago to Arthur Young Esq: on the subject, contains more information respecting my farms, the situation of them, and my motives for letting them; I shall take the liberty of enclosing you a copy of it; which when you have little else to do may employ half an hour. It will serve to shew too, that altho' I have taken no efficient measures, to carry this plan into execution, that it has been some time in contemplation; and upon what terms any of your friends, or such an association as has been spoken of (if inclined to try their fortune in this Hemisphere) may be accommodated.

If I part with the farms to commence with the year 1797, the contracts, (and I would make contracts with none who, for the reasons mentioned in the letter to Mr. Young for him or themselves) must be made before the first of Septembr in the year 1796; because it is at that period we are in readiness for seeding, and must make all our arrangements for the succeeding year. It is not likely I shall enter into any engagements for these farms before August or Septr. next; but I would not be

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precluded by anything contained in this Letter or that to Mr. Young, from doing so, if a good offer should be made me.

Mr. Young in answer to mine, wrote me that he had no doubt numbers would gladly accept my proposals if he was at liberty to publish them; by this I presume he meant an article of printed notoriety. To this I then did, and still do object; tho' I have no objection, if it is not incompatible with any restrictions, or active policy of the british Government, to its being spoken of, and the matter explained, on fit and proper occasions; but I add again, and unequivocally, that I would not be the means of drawing any men from the British dominions, if it be repugnant to the views of its Governmt. as stated above.

Lands in this Country generally, and particularly in the vicinity of the federal City, have risen so much in their price since the date of my letter to Mr. Young, that I could not *now* consent to take less than a dollar and a half an acre rent; giving leases for the term therein mentioned: and even at that rate, nothing but the motives which lead me to adopt the measure (and which have been expressed) would justify the policy of it. So increasing is the property in that part of the Country, from the causes which have been mentioned, in its value. With very great esteem etc.[79]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 25, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your several letters relative to the state of the applications, to the Assemblies of Maryland and Virginia, on the business of the Potomack Company, with the result thereof have been duly received.

The last, dated the 21st, I directed Mr. Dandridge to shew to Mr. Myers (knowing the suspence in which he was held) and

[79] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

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to add that, if upon the strength of the information therein, he chose to visit the Directors, I wou'd give him a line of introduction.[80] This communication produced the enclosed letter from him, but Mr. Dandridge having expressed no more than he was directed to do, there is no commitment.

I mention this because the letter of Mr. Myers seems to imply more, and as much depends upon the skill, industry, and other qualifications of an Engineer, or Person employed in such a work, that you may examine him critically yourselves; for it is proper I should observe that I have no other knowledge of Mr. Myerss fitness than is derived from his own Acct, and some papers which he has shewn, but which I had not leisure to examine correctly. The Post having arrived, I have only time to add, that we are all well, and join in affectionate regard to you and yours Yours always.[81]

*To JOHN TRUMBULL

Philadelphia, December 31, 1795.

Dear Sir: A few days ago I recd. your letter of the 3d. of Octr, and yesterday (in very good order) the Prints you were so obliging as to send me; which are indeed very handsome, and much admired by those who have had the opportunity of passing a judgment on them.

For this mark of your polite attention to me, I pray you to accept my sincere, and cordial thanks.

When the whole are compleated they will form an elegant set; and will be much desired. I will thank you for directing the remainder of mine, to be placed in frames like those now

[80] This "line of introduction" was addressed to Lear and dated Dec. 26, 1795. It is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[81] From a newspaper facsimile of the original in the *Washington Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

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sent (which are very handsome) and the cost shall be paid as soon as it is known to me; or if you would let me know before hand what will be the amount, the money shall be remitted to you, or your order.

I fear from your silence, with respect to your return to this Country, that we are not to expect it soon; but whether here, or elsewhere, you will always possess the sincere esteem, regard and friendship of etc.[82]

Mrs. Washington presents her best wishes, and the compliments of the Season to you. Nelly Custis spends this winter in Virga. with her mother.[83]

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, December 31, 1795.

Sir: Since I had the honor of writing to you last, which, I believe, was by Mr. Strickland, I have been favored with two letters from you both bearing date the 18th. of July.[84]

The one respecting Mr. Elkingtons discoveries in the Art of draining with the Extracts, and "Outlines of the 15th. Chap: on the subjt. of manures" came to my hands just before the meeting of Congress; the other enclosing the plan of an Agreement &ca. a few days ago only.

I will take an early occasion of conversing with some of the active and leading members in Congress on both subjects without any improper commitmt. of the first, and will inform you of the result; But I dare not, before hand, promise more than my own good disposition towds. these measures, as they may be checked by an unwillingness in the Legislative body to grant

[82] Trumbull was then in London.

[83] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Adolph Sutro, of San Francisco, Calif.

[84] These letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

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money generally and from some doubts of their Constitutional powers to do it for extraneous purposes however advantageous. But as I cannot make promises, so ought I not to anticipate evils.

Will you allow me to commit the packet herewith, for Doctr. Anderson, to your care, and to assure you of the high esteem etc.

REPLY TO THE FRENCH MINISTER[85]

United States, January 1, 1796.

Born, Sir, in a land of liberty; having early learned its value; having engaged in a perilous conflict to defend it; having, in a word, devoted the best years of my life to secure its permanent establishment in my own country; my anxious recollections, my sympathetic feelings, and my best wishes are irresistibly excited, whensoever, in any country, I see an oppressed nation unfurl the banners of Freedom. But above all, the events of the French Revolution have produced the deepest solicitude, as well as the highest admiration. To call your nation brave, were to pronounce but common praise. Wonderful people! Ages to come will read with astonishment the history of your brilliant exploits! I rejoice, that the period of your toils and of your immense sacrifices, is approaching. I rejoice that the interesting revolutionary movements of so many years have issued in the formation of a constitution designed to give permanency to the great object for which you have contended. I rejoice that liberty, which you have so long embraced with enthusiasm, liberty, of which you have been the invincible defenders, now finds an asylum in the bosom of a regularly organized government; a government, which, being formed to secure the happiness of the French people, corresponds with the ardent wishes

[85] See Washington's letter to Congress, Jan. 4, 1796, *post*.

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of my heart, while it gratifies the pride of every citizen of the United States, by its resemblance to their own. On these glorious events, accept, Sir, my sincere congratulations.

In delivering to you these sentiments, I express not my own feelings only, but those of my fellow citizens, in relation to the commencement, the progress, and the issue of the French revolution: and they will cordially join with me in purest wishes to the Supreme Being, that the citizens of our sister republic, our magnanimous allies, may soon enjoy in peace, that liberty which they have purchased at so great a price, and all the happiness which liberty can bestow.

I receive Sir, with lively sensibility, the symbol of the triumphs and of the enfranchisement of your nation, the colours of France, which you have now presented to the United States. The transaction will be announced to Congress; and the colours will be deposited with the archives of the United States,[86] which are at once the evidences and the memorials of their freedom and independence. May these be perpetual! and may the friendship of the two republics be commensurate with their existence.[87]

To GOVERNOR JOHN JAY

Philadelphia, January 1, 1796.

My dear Sir: The enclosed under cover from Sir John Sinclair, came to my hands a few days ago. I sincerely wish as well for the cause itself, as for the zealous supporter of it that some measure cou'd be devised to facilitate Sir John's Views. Can you suggest any? Aid me if you can for I am at a loss what to say in ansr. to his present plan, and the Extracts relative to

[86] The colors were duly deposited in the Department of State, which was then the depositary of the archives; but their present whereabouts are unknown.

[87] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. Adet's presentation speech is also entered in the "Letter Book."

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Mr. Elkingtons, discoveries in the art of draining; which, I presume, were forwarded to you at the time I received them, in a letter dated the 18th. of July from Sir John. Permit me to offer you Mrs. Jay and the family, the Compliments of the season and the return of many of them, each proving more happy than the former. With affectionate regard I am etc.[88]

To THOMAS MARSHALL

Philadelphia, January 2, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 12th. of August came safe to hand, and I thank you for discharging the taxes of my land, in Hardin County.[89] Your draught on me shall be paid at sight; the order has not yet been presented.

As settlers are removing fast (according to yours, and other information) towards Green River and among them, my nephew, Major George Lewis; I have determined to postpone the sale of my land on Rough Creek of that River, until he gets fixed there; and can obtain such a price, as he will be restricted to. I am not less obliged to you however, for your endeavours to dispose of it; and for the enquiries you have directed to be made, relative to the quality, of the land and other properties thereof: which when recd. I wou'd thank you for communicating to me. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.[88]

*To REVEREND BRYAN, LORD FAIRFAX

Philadelphia, January 3, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 16th. Ulto. came Safe, but not in the time which might have been expected from the date of it.

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[89] Kentucky.

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Mr. Davie's letter is herewith returned. I do not know that more could have been done than you have attempted to do; but it is exceedingly to be regretted that villainy, chicanery, and every species of delay, should bring justice in such jeopardy, if it is not in this instance, entirely defeated by them. I shall hope however, that as long as there remains a tolerable chance of coming at it, that the suit will be prosecuted: and that Colo. Simms[90] and who ever else is employed therein, will exert themselves to the utmost.

I am of opinion that good policy dictates the propriety of assuring them a *handsome fee* or rather a certain percentage if they succeed, and nothing if they do not. Trifling fees are, thrown away upon Lawyers of any eminence for they excite no exertion and it cannot be expected that in a case which is in a manner desperate, and without any appropriate funds, that large fees can be paid from our private purses. My advances to Mrs. Savage in her life time, during the days of her distress, was pretty considerable and the Clerks and Sheriffs fees are continually adding to it. Yours I am persuaded are equal thereto, and together shew the expediency of a vigorous effort which I see no other means of making than the one I have suggested.

My respects, and the complimts. of the Season in which Mrs. Washington joins me, are offered to Mrs. Fairfax and yrself and with sincere esteem etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 3, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 27th with the reports came to hand yesterday, and I am glad to find you have met with a

[90] Charles Simms.

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supply of twine in Alexandria, as there is no prospect that has yet opened, of getting it from hence in time and I have no doubt that under all chances fishing yourself will be more profitable than hiring out the landing for Sixty pounds.

I am not disposed to take any thing less for my flour than it sells at here (allowing for freight and Insurance) for if it is well manufactured, it will pass Inspection in this Market, and of course command the price of other flour, without the credit which is required in Alexandria and would be for my interest to bring it hither, rather than sell at an under rate. In any case, however, I request that Davenport may hasten the grinding as much as possible, that you may be enabled to take the advantage of a Vessel wanting a quantity to dispatch her, and the badness of the roads, which may prevent its coming from the upper country by land; which must be the case *now*, from the openess of the winter, hitherto; and will be the case in the spring when it is breaking up which circumstances are favorable for a good sale if you keep a good lookout.

My letter to you, must have been opened after it went from me, for I think it never could have left my hands without a seal. But letters for sometime past have been opened, to come at Bank and Post notes; and some persons are now under trial for this practice. I am etc.[91]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 4, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and House of Representatives: A letter from the Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Repub-

[91] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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lic, received on the 22d. of the last month, covered an address, dated the 21st of October 1794, from the Committee of public Safety, to the Representatives of the United States in Congress;[92] and also informed me, that he was instructed by the Committee, to present to the United States, the Colours of France. I thereupon proposed to receive them last Friday, the first day of the New Year, a day of general joy and congratulation. On that day, the Minister of the French Republic delivered the Colours, with an address, to which I returned an answer. By the latter, the House will see, that I have informed the Minister, that the Colours will be deposited with the Archives of the United States. But it seemed to me proper, previously to exhibit to the two Houses of Congress, these evidences of the continued friendship of the French Republic, together with the sentiments expressed by me on the occasion, in behalf of the United States. They are herewith communicated.[93]

To THE PRESIDENT OF THE DIRECTORY OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

At Philadelphia, January 7, 1796.

Sir: The Minister of the French Republic in the United States will certainly communicate to his Government an account of the Presentation of the Standard of France to the United States, through their Organ the President; and of the time and manner in which it was received. On the 4th: of the present Month, the first day afterwards on which they were convened, that standard was exhibited to the Representatives of the People in Congress, together with the address of

[92] This address is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*
[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

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the Committee of Public Safety, dated the 21st of October 1794, the Speech of the French Minister on presenting the standard to the President, and his answer. It was on this occasion, at their sitting on the fourth of the month, that the House of Representatives expressed their sentiments towards the French People, which they requested me to communicate, and which I cannot better do than in their own Words:

Resolved, unanimously, That the President of the United States be requested to make known to the Representatives of the French People, that this House hath received, with the most sincere and lively sensibility, the communication of the Committee of Public Safety, dated the twenty first of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety four, accompanied with the Colors of the French Republic; and to assure them, that the presentation of the Colors of the French Republic to the Congress of the United States, is deemed the most honorable testimonial of the existing sympathies and affections of the two Republics, founded upon their solid and reciprocal interests: and that this House rejoices in the opportunity thereby afforded to congratulate the French Nation upon the brilliant and glorious atchievements, which have been accomplished under their influence, during the present afflicting war; and confidently hopes, that those atchievements will be attended with the perfect attainment of their object; the permanent establishmen of the Liberties, and Happiness of a great and magnanimous people.

I also do myself the pleasure to transmit to you the Resolve of the Senate on the same occasion, declaring their union with me in the sentiments I have expressed towards the French Republic, and their devout wishes that the sincere affection which unites our two Republics, may be perpetuated.

These sentiments, sir, you will have the goodness to make known to the Representatives of the French People, in the time and manner which you shall deem the most acceptable.[94]

[94] From a photostat of the original, which is signed by Washington and attested by Pickering, through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

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To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 8, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: I transmit to you a memorial of the Commissioners[95] appointed by virtue of an Act entitled "An Act for establishing the Temporary and permanent Seat of the Government of the United States" on the subject of the public Buildings under their direction.

Since locating a District for the permanent Seat of the Government of the United States as heretofore announced to both Houses of Congress I have accepted the grants of money and of land stated in the Memorial of the Commissioners. I have directed the buildings therein mentioned to be commenced on plans which I deemed consistent with the liberality of the Grants and proper for the purposes intended.

I have not been inattentive to this important business, intrusted by the Legislature to my care. I have received the resources placed in my hands and observed the manner in which they have been applied; the progress is pretty fully detailed in the memorial from the Commissioners, and one of them attends to give further information if required.

In a case new and arduous like the present difficulties might naturally be expected: some have occurred; but they are in a great degree surmounted, and I have no doubt if the remaining resources are properly cherished, so as to prevent the loss of property by hasty and numerous sales, that all the buildings required for the accommodation of the Government of the United States may be compleated in season, without aid from the Federal Treasury. The subject is therefore recommended

[95] Entered in full in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

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to the consideration of Congress, and the result will determine the measures which I shall cause to be pursued with respect to the property remaining unsold.[96]

*To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, January 11, 1795 [1796].

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th. Ulo. has been received, and nothing from you since; which is embarrassing to me in the *extreme;* for not only the nomination of Ch——f J—— but an As——te J——dge and Se——y of W are depending upon the answer I expected. And what renders the want of it more unfortunate, if any thing can add to my present perplexity on the occasion is, that the first Monday in next month which happens on the first day of it is the time appointed by Law for the meeting of the Supreme Court of the U S in this City at which for particular reasons the Bench ought to be full.[97] I will add no more at present than that I am etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 17, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letters of the 3d and 10th instt are both before me, the last came yesterday, and the first on tuesday.

I should be sorry if Davenports disorder should prove fatal to him; it would be a heavy stroke upon his family at any time, and unlucky for me at the present.

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[96] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[97] At this point the following is crossed off in the draft: "I am really at a loss to know what measures *now* to adopt, could I have supposed that it would have taken 'till this time to have ascertained the opinion of a certain character I should have relinquished the idea altogether."

Lee's letter of Dec. 26, 1795, states that "Mr. H[enry] was written to by me in a way to obtain his answer by a direct opportunity which was presented in the last ten days. It is now about the proper time to receive his reply, but least any accident may interrupt my receipt of it, I have this day repeated the contents of my let. and shall send it off, in the morning by express; the mail succeeding my hearing from him will bear my communication of his mind to you." Lee's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

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I am under no concern for the fall which has taken place in the price of flour; that it will be up again, and higher than ever in the spring there is but little doubt, indeed some well informed Merchants declare they should not be surprized to find it at twenty dollars pr Barrel at that season.

There can be no question, in my mind that herrings will be at 10/. pr Thousand and Shads at three dollars at least pr hundred for which reason, my advice to you is, not to take less from Mr. Smith, or any other who may offer to contract, beforehand.

You may manage the fields at Union farm in whatever manner you think best. My great object (more than making crops) is to preserve the land and the mode you have suggested for the ensuing crop, may answer that purpose.

I have no objection to your disposing of all the fallen timber to Waggoners that you see no prospect of getting up yourself upon the best terms you can obtain. taking care to prevent, as far as possible, impositions and inconveniences from admitting them within your outer fences. To keep which up, is an object of great importance; and I wish it to be done as far as it is in your power without neglecting things of greater moment. It was always my intention, and is my earnest wish, to get a hedge of the honey locust, or some plant of quick and stubborn growth upon the outer ditch as soon as possible.

How does your winter grain stand this open weather? It has been fine for grubbing, and I hope that business has, and is going on well. Have you a prospect of getting all grubbed within the line I laid off the morning I left home? and is it likely you can do anything towards the New road from the White gates this winter or Spring?

As Allison knew that it never was contemplated to bring, or have a married man about the Mansion house as an Overseer, he would be rightly served to be turned of[f]; but as it might be

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difficult to supply his place at this season I can give no direction about it, but leave the matter to yourself to act as circumstances dictate.

It is hardly possible it can be three years since I subscribed to the Salary of Mr. Davis,[98] how then can there be two years due when one has been paid? Surely it was not the terms of the Subscription to pay ten pounds at the beginning, and ten pounds at the end of the first year. But you can ascertain this matter by having recourse to the paper, or, Mr. Herbert, who was the gentleman that obtained my name to it.

It is not want of water, but the great quantity of it that is wasted, that makes the scarcity at the Mill, and this will continue to be the case until the New race is done and all the rotten and week parts below it are thoroughly repaired. after which, except in *very* dry summers I do not conceive there will be much cause for complaint. I remain your etc.[99]

*To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 20, 1796.

My dear Sir: Let this letter be received with the same friendship and frankness, with which it is written; nothing would add more to the satisfaction this would give me, than your acceptance of the offer I am going to make you.

Without further preface then, will you suffer me to nominate you to the Office of Secretary of War? That I may give evidence of the candour I have professed above, I shall inform you, that for particular reasons (more fit for an oral, than a

[98] Rev. Thomas Davis, of Christ Church, Alexandria, Va.

[99] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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written communication) this Office has been offered to Genl. Pinckney of So. Carolina; Colo. Carrington of Virginia, and Govr. Howard[1] of Maryland, and that it would now give me sincere pleasure if you would fill it.

After making this declaration I can press you no farther; but I press for an immediate answer, as the public Service is suffering much for want of a head to the department of War. If you consent to this nomination, prepare to come on as soon as it is made (for the reason just mentioned) altho' at this season, and in the present state of the Roads, you should not find it convenient to bring Mrs. McHenry and your family along with you.

Sound, I pray you, and let me know without delay, if Mr. Saml Chase would accept a seat on the Supreme Judicial bench of the U. States, made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Blair. If his decision is in the affirmative, he will at once perceive the necessity of being here by the first monday (if possible) in next month, at which time that Court is to sit in this city.[2] Altho' these subjects are, both, of an interesting nature, I will add no more on them at present; but assure you of the sincere friendship, and Affecte. regard of &c.[3]

*To JAMES MADISON

Philadelphia, January 22, 1795 [1796].

Dear Sir: The enclosed letters, with the additional explanation that follows, will bring the case of young Fayette fully to your view.

[1] John Eager Howard. He was Governor of Maryland from 1788 to 1792.

[2] McHenry's letter of acceptance (January 24), stating also that Chase would accept, is in the *Washington Papers.*

[3] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

On January 26 the President nominated McHenry and Chase, and also William Cushing, of Massachusetts, the latter for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. On January 27 the Senate concurred in these appointments. The nominating message and the concurrence are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

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From the receipt of Mr. Cabots letter until the latter end of Octr, I had not heard from, or of the young Gentleman. Then, a letter from Colo Hamilton, to whom as you will see by Mr Cabots letter he had been introduced, informed me that he and his Tutor were in a retired place 20 or 30 miles from the city of New York anxiously hoping that they would soon receive a call from me. In answer to this letter, I expressed to Colo. Hamilton sentiments similar to those which had been communicated to Mr Cabot; but requested him, not only to view the case in its different relations *himself* but to discover if he could, what might be the opinion of others thereon, and let me know the result. Which amounted to this; that his own opinion, tho' he hesitated in giving it, inclined to my sending the young Gentln. the invitation that was wished; but that this was not the sentiment of those (names not mentioned) with whom he had conversed.

Upon the receipt of *that* letter I wrote to Mr. La Fayette on the 22d. of Novr.[4] and enclosed it to Colo. Hamilton the next day. To the last of which I received the reply of November 26th. From thence I heard nothing further on the subject until the letters of Mr. de la Fayette and his tutor, of the 25th. of Decr. were received. Since which nothing has been said or done in the matter; and I wish to know what you think (considering my public character) I had best do to fulfil the obligations of friendship and my own wishes without involving consequences. Sincerely and Affectionately I remain, etc.[5]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 25, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: The letter which accompanies the two parcels of Rice herewith sent, gives all the information I am able to

[4] This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.
[5] From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1907–8.

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transmit, respecting the cultivation of them; and to which I request you to pay particular attention.

As these small things may be laid by, and forgot when the season for sowing or preparing ground for them arrives; and even after sowing them, may be forgotten in the due cultivation of them It would be proper to avoid the first, to put them in places where they cannot be overlooked and as a remembrancer of the latter, to note down in your book of reports the time, and place, where and when, they are put into the ground. I am etc.[6]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 27, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 17th. Instt. which I expected on Saturday, came to hand by the Post of yesterday. These delays are, I presume, occasioned by the extreme badness of the Roads, wch. by all accounts never were worse.

I am very sorry for the death of Mr. Davenport on many Accts.; and not the least on Acct. of his poor family; who must, I am sure, be left in great distress. for this reason I request you to shew them all the kindness you can, and afford them any aid and comfort in your power. Altho' she can have no *right* to the meat, I would have none of it taken from her. You may also let her have middlings from the Mill; and until the house may become indispensably necessary for the succeeding Miller, let her remain in it. As she went from these parts she can have no friends (by these I mean relations) where she is. If therefore she wishes to return back to his, or her own relations, aid her in doing so.

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*From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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You appear to have done every thing in your power, that circumstances will permit, to lessen the inconvenience of his death, to me; and if the Miller you may be able to get is well recommended, and you can place confidence in him, engage him for Six months without waiting to hear further from, or depending on me to send one from hence: But in this you must be governed by circumstances.

Let Mr. Smith know that I am obliged to him for his kind assistance. If Colo. Gilpin or Mr. Hartshorn may have it in their power to recommend a good Miller And I wish you would enquire of them, and others, what my Mill would rent for (after the New race is completed) giving a lease of it for fourteen years to be returned at the expiration of wch. in good order. And having heard also that some of those poor lands at Cameron, and from thence towards Commodore Brooks and Mrs. French's have been let at very high rents, I request you to enquire, and let me know the literal truth. And as I have understood that the deceased Mr. Robt. Alexander, before his death, divided his plantation (if not his whole land) into small tenements I wish to know what Rents are paid, by the Acre, and for what term they were let. I will let you know shortly, the object I have in view by making these enquiries, which I beg you will be as correct, and as soon in your answers, as may be. Let me know also who, of the Dower Negros that are grown, have husbands and wives, and who those husbands and wives are. That is, whether these connections are, one Dower Negro with another Dower Negro; whether they are with other Negros on the Estate; or whether with the Neighbouring Negros.

As there has been lately, and probably will continue to be through this and the next month, a good deal of wet weather I beg you will direct Neal to be diligent in the Barn with those

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things wch. I mentioned to you in a former letter, as all of them are very essential to be done, and had better be done in short days, and bad and muddy weather, than when they can work out to more advantage.

Where are the River people grubbing? I see more or less of this work reported every week at that farm. I wish you well, and am etc.

*To GEORGE FITZHUGH

Philadelphia, January 28, 1796.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 14th. Instant, I inform you that the price of the land which I have in Gloucester County (Virginia) is Eight hundred pounds, estimating dollars at six shillings, with interest thereon since the first day of April 1789 to the day on which I shall convey it: this being the precise cost of it to me. One fourth of the money to be paid at the time the Land is conveyed, and the other three fourths in annual payments, with interest until the whole is discharged.

The tract contains four hundred Acres; the situation of it, you appear to know; one hundred and five acres of which I am informed (by the Survey thereof) is covered with good white Oak timber. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, January 28, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 21st and 24th. instant have been duly received. The last, in time on tuesday, to give in the Nominations of yourself and Mr. Chase for the Offices contemplated. The day following they were advised and consented to by the Senate; and the Commissions will be ready for the reception of you both on your arrival in this City. of this be so good as

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to inform Mr. Chase; and, if he is still at Baltimore, to remind him, that monday next is the day appointed for the sitting of the Supreme Court; and without him, there is no certainty of a sufficient number of Judges to constitute it.

For the reasons assigned in my last to you, and which press more and more every day, I shall look anxiously for your arrival. Always and Affectly. etc.[7]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 29, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: In pursuance of the Authority vested in the President of the United States by an Act of Congress passed the third of March last, to reduce the weight of the copper coin of the United States, whenever he should think it for the benefit of the United States, provided that the reduction should not exceed two penny weights in each cent, and in the like proportion in a half cent; I have caused the same to be reduced, since the twenty seventh of last December, to wit, one penny weight and sixteen grains in each cent, and in the like proportion in a half cent, and I have given notice thereof by Proclamation.[8]

By the letter of the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States held at Boston in June last, and the inclosed application

[7] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.
On January 28 Dandridge informed the Secretary of War that Washington "conceives, with the Secretary, that at the junction of the Rivers Potomac and Shannondoah combines the greatest advantages and of course is the most eligible spot. The President desires that the Secretary will cause measures to be taken immediately for purchasing the land and erecting the necessary works at the above place in conformity to the act of Congress for establishing public Arsenals &ca." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] No draft or copy of this proclamation is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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of the under Keeper of the Jail at that place, of which copies are herewith transmitted, Congress will perceive the necessity of making a suitable provision for the maintenance of Prisoners committed to the Jails of the several States under the authority of the United States.[9]

*To JOHN PAGE[10]

(Private)

Saturday, January 30, 1796.

Dear Sir: Retaining but an imperfect recollection of the facts that influenced the decision on Mr. Guenets[11] petition, I desired the Secretary of State to make particular enquiry into the nature of his case (of the district Judge and others) and report specially to me on the occasion.[12]

Enclosed is the result, which I give you the perusal of as a proof of his want of candour, and that every favor consistent with the Laws and the nature of his offence, had been shewn to him; in consideration of his circumstances, by the Court: As also the necessity for example: for indeed you, nor no other, not in the Administration of the government, can form any idea of the plague and vexation it has received from the conduct of these kind of people, and the complaints which have proceeded from them, from one or other, of the Representatives of the

[9] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[10] Member of Congress from Virginia.

[11] Jean Etienne Guenet.

[12] Page has written, at the foot of this letter: "Guenet was in the great Jail of Philada. where he said he was unjustly confined by the federal Court on a charge of assisting in fitting out and arming a french Ship in the Port of Philada. and was also fined beyond his Ability to pay, and I had at his request laid his Petition and Statement of his Case before the President, on which he wrote the letter above. The Report of the Secretary (Pickering) was such as rendered further interference improper. The Presidts Condescention and ready attention to the frenchman's Case, I thankfully acknowledged and applauded without flattery. J. P."

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Belligerent Powers. When you have read the Enclosed Report, be so good as to return it to Dear Sir Your etc.[13] [H. S. P.]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, January 31, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 24th inst. with the reports, came to hand, at the usual time, yesterday. And I am sorry to find by them that sickness is so prevalent among the people. It is occasioned I presume by the changeableness of the weather; and will I hope, be carried off by the steady cold which seems to be now setting in.

Has your grain been covered with snow? If not, how does it, and is it likely, to withstand these open frosts?

If you cannot get a Miller until the first of June, (I mean who will remain with you until that time), let me know it, and I will endeavor to send one from hence: but the season will, in a manner, be passed away before one could reach you from hence; for which reason, if you could get a fit character nearer home, it would be better. I hope the loss of Ben will not be added to that of Davenport. Let care be taken of him, and all the rest of the sick.

As I am almost as confident as I can be of anything, that depends upon a bad memory, that it is not three years since I subscribed to a Salary for Mr. Davis, I cannot discover upon what ground it is he claims three years payment; unless my subscription anticipated a years payment, of which I have no recollection; but which must certainly be known to Mr. Herbert who was the Gentleman that solicited my name to the instrument. I am always willing to pay what I owe, but *never* that which I *do not* owe. I wish you well and am yr friend[14]

[13] Pickering's report is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, Jan. 29, 1796.

[14] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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*To RICHARD HENDERSON

Philadelphia, January 31, 1796.

Sir: I hope you will not ascribe to incivility, an omission, which has proceeded from accident, or rather from misconception.

Immediately upon the receipt of your letter dated the 26th. of Novr. it was put into the hands of the Gentleman who temporarily discharged the duties of Secretary of State, with directions to acknowledge the receipt of it; and to inform you that the Executive was pursuing enquiries which were to lead to a final decision on the Site for an Arsenal. Misconceiving the latter direction, and supposing it wd. be in time to acknowledge the receipt of your letter after the above mentioned decision was come to, it had, from the multiplicity of business in two offices, which he superintended, escaped his attention until my enquiry on the subject recalled it to his recollection.

I have now (tho' late) to inform you that another spot will, I believe, be the object of governmental choice: if not, more particular enquiry will be made of you, on what terms the Land &ca. offered by you, could be obtained. With esteem etc.

*To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, January 31, 1796.

Dear Sir: I am ashamed, so much after the date of it, to have the receipt of your letter of the 15th. of Decr. to acknowledge; but truth being the best apology I can make for the omission, you will receive it as follow.

Immediately upon the receipt of that letter I sent it where all other letters relative to the same subject were referred, to the Secretary of War, who was in the act of investigating

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circumstances attending the different sites proposed for An Arsenal on the Potomack, that the one which appeared to combine the greatest, and most numerous advantages might be preferred; with direction that he shd. acknowledge the receipt of it, and add this information thereto. Not until an enquiry within these few days, did I learn that the multiplicity of business which two Offices involves him in, had occasioned it to slip his memory: I therefore take it upon myself to inform you that a situation above, is preferred to one below the Bleu Mountain.

With very great esteem and regard I am etc.[15]

ADVERTISEMENT

Philadelphia, February 1, 1796.

TO BE LET
AND POSSESSION GIVEN IN AUTUMN

The Farms appertaining to the Mount Vernon Estate, in Virginia; four in number; adjoining the Mansion House Farm. Leases will be given for the term of fourteen years to *real* farmers of *good* reputation, and none others need apply.

The largest of these, called River Farm, contains 1207 acres of ploughable land; 879 of which, are in seven fields, nearly of a size, and under good fences; 212 acres (in one enclosure) are, generally in a common grass pasture; and 116 acres more, are in *five* grass lots, and an orchard (of the best grafted fruit) all of them contiguous to the dwelling house and barn. On the premises, are a comfortable dwelling house (in which the Overlooker resides) having three rooms below, and one or two above; an old barn (now in use) and a brick one building 60 by 30 feet; besides ends and wings, sufficient for stabling 20

[15] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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working horses, and as many oxen; and an excellent brick dairy, with a fine spring in the middle of it. Thirty black labourers (men and women) being the usual number which have been employed on this farm, are, with their children, warmly lodged chiefly in houses of their own building. The soil is a loam, more inclined to clay than sand, and with slight dressings yields grain well, particularly wheat. Encompassed on two sides by the river Potomack, and on a third by a navigable creek, the inlet therefrom, in a variety of places, afford an inexhaustible fund of rich mud for manure or compost. The water abounds in a variety of fish and wild fowl; and one or more shad and herring fisheries might be established thereon.

Next in size, is Union Farm, (so called from the annexation of two together). This has also seven fields, nearly equal in size and containing in the aggregate 841 acres of ploughable land; besides 65 acres of mowable meadow; principally of reclaimed swamps of the richest sort; and four lots of 5 acres each, designated for clover, by the stables. On the premises are a comfortable (though small) dwelling house, in which the Superintendant of the estate resides; with a kitchen and other convenient houses, very pleasantly situated on the river. In the centre of the farm, there is a new house with two rooms below, and two above (inhabited by the Overlooker of the farm). Covering of the same kind, and for about the same number of labourers and their families, as at River Farm, belong to this; and perhaps one of the best and most convenient barns of brick in America, for grain (in and out of the straw) and for the accommodation of stock of all kinds, working horses and oxen. The soil of this Farm is not unlike the last, but rather more tenacious. There is one excellent shad and herring fishery appertaining thereto, with convenient houses for salting and barrelling them up; and another which has been, and might again

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be, used to advantage. This Farm being bounded by the river and a navigable creek for a considerable extent, abounds as the other does, with the same kind of inlets, and resources of mud, wild fowl, &c.

Adjoining to the last mentioned Farm, and at the head of the creek, which bounds the same, is Dogue-Run Farm; consisting of 517 acres of ploughable land in seven fields, differing but little in size; with 132 acres of mowable grass, in several inclosures; part of which being of the richest reclaimed swamps, remain permanently in grass: The other part is alternately in grass and grain. On the premises are, a new dwelling house occupied by the Overlooker (warm and comfortable though small); with covering for twenty odd black labourers and their families; a new brick barn with an open circular floor to thresh, or tread on, through which the grain passes to a floor below, where it is always secure, and ready for winnowing; stables for thirty odd working horses and oxen, adjoin the barn; and covering for other kinds of stock, all entirely new. The soil of this Farm is a good loam, rather lighter than those of the preceding.

The fourth Farm is called Muddy-Hole; and has the same number of fields with the rest; besides four grass lots of five acres each, surrounding the barn and stables; the whole making together 476 acres of ploughable land. The Overlooker's house is small, and but indifferent; the cover of the labourers is similar to those which have been already mentioned; and sufficient for fifteen or more with their families. The barn (which is of wood) and stables for eight or ten horses, are good. The soil has a greater mixture of sand in it than either of the other Farms, and is of a thinner quality.

These four Farms, with the woodland appertaining to the tract, make altogether about eight thousand acres; the whole

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of which are inclosed by a post and rail fence, and the tide water of the river and creeks. The Farms, and every field belonging to them, are as level as a farmer would desire, and without stones or stumps to impede the plough or harrow. They are distant from Alexandria, about eight, from the Federal City, twelve, and from Georgetown, sixteen miles by land, and the same by water; at all of which places there are ready markets, and good prices for every article the Farms produce.

As these Farms are large, and can suit a few only in their present extent, there is a disposition favorable on my part, to divide them into lots of any size, corresponding as nearly as may be with the present fields; many of which are ditched and hedged; provided an association of respectable farmers could agree in the partition; and would erect, at their own expense on those lots that would be separated from the present buildings, such conveniences as would accommodate, and content themselves. As an inducement to them to encounter this expense, and that many, rather than a few industrious farmers may be accommodated thereby, I would add three years to the length of the leases of those lots on which there would be no buildings. It is to be understood however, that the association must be complete before the division of any farm will be made, or a part thereof let. And it is to be further understood, that the agreement for either of those Farms as they now are, or if parcelled out, must, if rented at all this year, be entered into before the 1st September (August would be still better) because, arrangements and preparations for the ensuing crops must commence by that time, whether I rent, or retain them in my own occupancy.

Mr. William Pearce, the Superintendent of that Estate, and living thereon, will shew the premises, and give such informa-

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tion as may be required relative to the terms on which they may be obtained: And as there is a sketch of the Farms in my possession (in this city) shewing from actual and correct surveys their relative situations, with the figure and contents of each field, grass lot, and meadow ground, from whence ideas more satisfactory than can be formed from an advertisement may be derived; it may be seen on application to my private Secretary Mr. Dandridge, and the terms known on which they may be had.

If the Farms are let, the occupants may be accommodated on just and reasonable terms, in a sale of the stock which is upon the same; consisting of draught horses, oxen, and working mules; black cattle, sheep and hogs; carts, ploughs (of the best kind) harrows, and every kind of implement, necessary on a farm. And they will be allowed the privileges of taking from the woodland, necessary fuel and timber for repairing fences, &c under certain restrictions to be agreed on, and inserted in the leases.

Besides these Farms, which have been in my own occupation, there are smaller lots of arable land adjoining thereto, which may also be had on the terms before mentioned; together with a merchant mill situated within the general inclosure. This mill works two pair of stones one pair of which (of the best French burr) are employed in the manufacture of wheat, the other pair, of Cologne, are designated for country work. Evan's patent machine for hoisting and cooling flour (erected either by himself or brother) rolling screens, fans, bolting cloths, &c. &c. (all worked by water) are complete. The tide flows up to the mill tail, and boats deliver and receive their lading at the door, from whence it is hoisted by water into the garners above. Near the mill is a comfortable house and convenient gardens, &c for the miller, and a commodious shop

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within 60 yards of them for coopers. If desired, 30 or 40 acres of tillable land may be had with the mill.

FOR SALE:

The following Lands, viz
On the Ohio River, in four tracts.

The First, Called Round Bottom, is about 15 miles below Wheeling, a little above Captenon, and opposite to Pipe-Creek; bounded by the river in a circular form for 2 miles and 120 poles containing 587 acres

Second, Is the first large bottom below the mouth of the Little Kenhawa, beginning 3 or 4 miles therefrom, and about 12 or 15 miles below Marietta. Its breadth on the river is 5 miles and 120 poles, and contents 2314

Third, Is about 20 miles still lower down; being the 4th large bottom on the S. East side the river, below the Little Kenhawa. It is bounded by the river 3 miles and 33 poles, and is furnished (as I have been informed) with an excellent mill seat, contents 2448

Fourth, Is the next large bottom (on the same side of the river) and a little above the Great Bend thereof; its breadth on the river, is 5 miles and 70 poles and contents 4395

Total on the Ohio, S. E. side thereof 9744

ON THE GREAT KENHAWA, IN FOUR TRACTS

The first, Is on the West side of the river, beginning within 2 or 3 miles of its confluence with the Ohio; about the same distance from the town of Mount Pleasant, and about 6 or 8 miles from Galiopolis. It borders on the river 17 miles and 51 poles and contains 10990

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SECOND, Is on the East side of the river a little higher up and bounded thereby 12 miles and 227 poles, containing 7276

THIRD, Is at the conflux of the Kanhawa and Cole Rivers (west side of the former) and in the fork thereof, and bounded by the two rivers 5 miles and 88 poles, contents 2000

FOURTH, Is on the East side nearly opposite the last mentioned, 6 miles and 19 poles, contents 3000

TOTAL ON THE KANHAWA, 23,266

As it is not more presumable than it is wished that all who are inclinable to become purchasers of these lands, will themselves or by agents in whom they can confide examine them critically, nothing more will be said relative to them, than that they may be considered as the cream of the country in which they lye, being the richest interval lands on the two rivers, to the extent that has been enumerated; that is in the aggregate 57 miles. That they were surveyed before any settlements, grants of land were made thereon. That all of them are patented in my name, many years ago, same near 25; and, that the titles to them are indisputable.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING TRACTS ARE FOR SALE ALSO, VIZ

On the Little Miami Upper side within a mile of the Ohio,	830 acre
About 7 miles up the said Miami	977
And ten miles from the mouth thereof	1235
TOTAL ON THE LITTLE MIAMI	305
In Kentucky, On the rough branch of Green River are two tracts adjoining each other one containing three the other 2000	5000

Of these five last mentioned tracts, I have no other knowledge than what is derived from the reports of the surveyors

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made on the premises, some eight, and others twelve and thirteen years since; which certify that they are lands of the first quality. The three first are near to, if not adjoining (the river only separating them) the grant made to Judge Syms and others between the two Miami's and being in the neighbourhood of Cincinnati and Fort Washington cannot, from their situation (if the equality of the soil is correctly stated) be otherwise than valuable. Those lying on Green River, in Kentucky, besides being fertile and well watered, are said to contain an extensive and valuable bank of Iron Ore; the working of which would be of public utility, as well as private advantage. And moreover, as the population in that part of the State, is encreasing rapidly, the value of these Lands must increase proportionally.

THE TERMS ON WHICH ALL THE LAND HEREIN OFFERED FOR SALE, MAY BE PURCHASED, are,

One fourth of the cost to be paid when the bargains are concluded and the conveyances shall be made.

The other three-fourths in five years, with interest, annually and punctually paid.

A Mortage upon the Premises, will be taken for securing payment of the unpaid principal sum, at the end of the above term of five years; and unquestionable security for the punctual payment of the interest on the day, in every year that it shall become due, at the place of my residence; or to any Agent I may appoint; or to be deposited in such bank or banks as shall be agreed.

As these Lands, particularly on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa, are unquestionably among the most valuable on the Western water; and I am willing to allow time to explore them,

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I will enter into no contracts for any part of them until the first of September next, but will receive proposals at any time previous thereto.

On that day, a preference will be given to the person, or persons, who shall have made the highest offers, provided they are adequate to the real value of the Land, and the terms herein mentioned are strictly entered into, and compliance therewith is secured.

The plots, and surveyor's reports, of ALL these Lands, may be seen by any who are inclined to become adventurers in the purchase of any, or all of them by applying to Mr. Dandridge.[16]

*TERMS ON WHICH THE FARMS AT MOUNT VERNON MAY BE OBTAINED

February 1, 1796.

There not being much difference in the quality of the soil of River, Union, and Dogue run farm the rent of each, by the acre, will be the same. The soil of River farm has, generally, been most productive; but not having the meadow grounds of the other two, it will hardly be esteemed more valuable, or more profitable in future.

The Rent of these three farms (in which the Meadow grounds at the two latter will be blended with the arable) is a bushel and half of Wheat for each acre contained within the limits of the present fencing or in failure of that crop an equivolent in cash at the Market price of the article: the bounds of which shall be correctly described in the leases, and the quantity precisely ascertained by accurate resurveys, for the purpose of rectifying former errors, if any have been committed, or alterations, if

[16] From the advertisement appearing in the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandrian Gazette*, Feb. 27, 1796.

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any have been occasioned by the removal of fences, since the fields were first established.

(The reasons why I fix the rent in Wheat are, 1st because it is the staple produce of the part of the country in which the Estate lies. 2d because it is convenient to the Tenant, and equitable for both him and the Landlord; there being no more trouble or expense in raising this article when it bears a high, than when it is at a low price: consequently as it now is, and probably will continue to be a regulating standard for the price of other articles foreign and domestic, the Rent thus established will keep pace therewith. Whereas was it fixed in money, the depreciation in that, and progressive rise in other things might render a good rent *now* a mere nominal one fourteen years hence. To fix the rent in wheat *now* when it bears so high a price, may be thought extravagant; but no person of information can, or does suppose otherwise, than that the price of this article will be reduced to its old or progressive price so soon as the wars in Europe cease and tranquillity is again restored. It is to be understood, that the rent when paid in wheat, is to be delivered on or before the first of December in every year, to the Collector.)[17]

To the two farms which lye on the River, the Fisheries which now are, have been, or again might be used as such, may be annexed: and may be obtained for the same term of years that the Case is given for the farm adjoining; and at a reasonable Rent. Or they will be let seperately to others, with the priviledge of Ingress, and regress, through the farms.

Dogue run farm will comprehend no part of the Mill meadows, or Mill swamp; nor any ground without the present outer

[17] The parenthetical portion is missing from the original in Cornell University Library. In that document there is an asterisk (*) after the word "established"; it is supplied here from the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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fences of the fields, except the Woodland which is (in a manner) encompassed by fields No. 2, 3. 5 and 7, which, if the farm is let in an undivided state, may be Inclosed, merely for a Woodland pasture. In like manner, the other farms are to be circumscribed by the outer fences of the respective fields; and no more land is to be cleared within them, than what is now in use, except by Special agreement, and for a certain fixed compensation.

Each farm, whether in its present, or divided State, will be supplied with fuel from the Woodland; and with timber for all sorts of farming implements, and for fencing, with the necessary repairs to it; until hedges can be raised; a measure which will be insisted upon as far, and as soon, as it is reasonably practicable.

Muddy hole farm being more indifferent than either of the other three, will be let for a quarter of a bushel of Wheat less per acre, but subject in other respects to the same regulations.

Tobacco will not be allowed to be cultivated for market, on any of the farms; nor more than a sixth part of the arable suffered to be in Indian Corn in any year during the term of the leases; and the rotation which is annex'd, or some other not more oppressive to the land, will be insisted upon; as also, that Hogs shall not run at large.

If the farms are let in their undivided State, no more buildings will be necessary than what are already on the Premises: but if they are divided, houses in proportion to the number, and size of the lots which will be seperated from those which may contain the present buildings, will be required: the materials for which must be provided by the tenants themselves, except *small* aids from the Woodland: But as the earth at every farm, and in every part of each farm, is good for Brick or Mud walls (the last of which are warm and good when judiciously

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made) they would be recommended; especially the former; as infinitely preferable, more durable, requiring less repairs, and very little if any dearer, than Wood buildings, even in their first cost.

Leases will be given conformably to the Advertisement in the Gazettes; namely, for fourteen yrs. if the farms are undivided; and for eighteen years if they are divided, for such lots as will be excluded from the present buildings; with the usual covenants for the security of the Rents; Keeping the farms in tenantable repair; Planting fruit trees &ca. &ca.

The Mill, and everything appertaining to it, is, at the time of letting, to be critically examined, and must be returned in like good order at the expiration of the Lease.

The present farms, as has been mentioned before, may be divided into large, or small lots, so as to suit the convenience of those who may incline to associate; but less than one of the present fields, at any of the farms, except where they are large ought not to compose a lot: and to lay them off by fields, wd. be convenient and desirable, on account of the Ditches, hedges, and fences that are now in use.

Although the admission of Slaves with the Tenants will not be absolutely prohibited; It would, nevertheless, be a pleasing circumstance to exclude them; If not entirely, at least in a great degree: To do which, is not among the least inducements for dividing the farms into small lots.

Adjoining to River farm, are grounds which now are a common, between the fences of fields No. 1. 2. and 3. and the River; these may become part of those lots, at the rent pr. acre of the other part, whether the farm is divided, or not; making the River, instead of the present fences, the boundary.

For every acre contained in the lease, an Apple tree of good grafted fruit is to be planted on the premises, in a regular

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orchard truly laid out in rows forty feet a part each way. Between wch. (also in regular order) rows of peach trees will be required.

Rotation referred to, for a Farm containing six fields, besides a homestead, or Inclosure for the houses, garden, and yards.

1st ....Indian Corn, with intermediate rows of Potatoes, or any root more certain or useful (if such there be) that will not impede the plough, hoe or harrow in the cultivation of the Corn.

2d ....Wheat, Rye, or Winter Barley at the option of the Tenant; sown as usual when the Corn receives its last working.

3d ....Buck Wheat, Peas, or Pulse, or Vegitables of any sort; or partly of all; or any thing else, except grain (that is corn Crops); for which this is preparatory.

4th....Oats, or Summer barley, at the discretion of the Tenant, with Clover, if and when the ground is in condition to bear it.

5th....To remain in Clover for cutting, for feeding, or for both or if Clover should not be sown, or if sown should not succeed; then and in that case the field may be filled with any kind of Vetch, pulse or Vegitables.

6th....To lie uncultivated in pasture, and for the purpose of manuring, for the same round of crops again.

The other fields passing through the same courses will, supposing the rotation to commence in the year 1797, appear in one view by the Plan on the other side.

A Farm containing 100 acres gives Six fields of 16 acres each; and leaves 4 Acres for the Houses, garden and yards.

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Rotation for a Farm of 6 fields

Number of the Fields.	1797	1798	1799	1800	1801	1802
1	Corn and Potats.	Wheat Rye or &ca.	Buck Wheat or &ca.	Oats or Barley with Clovr	Clovr. or Pulse	Pasture & Manurs.
2	Pasture & Manurs.	Corn & Potatoes	Wheat Rye or &ca.	Buck Wheat or &ca.	Oats or Barley with Clovr	Clover or Pulse
3	Clover or Pulse	Pasture & Manurs.	Corn and Potatoes	Wheat Rye or &ca.	Buck Wheat or &ca.	Oats or Barley with Clovr
4	Oats or Barley with Clovr	Clover or Pulse	Pasture & Manurs.	Corn and Potatoes	Wheat Rye or &ca.	Buck Wheat or &ca.
5	Buck-Wheat or &ca.	Oats or Barley with Clovr.	Clover or Pulse	Pasture & Manurs.	Corn and Potatoes	Wheat Rye or &ca.
6	Wheat Rye or &ca.	Buck Wheat or &ca.	Oats or Barley with Clovr	Clover or Pulse	Pasture and Manurs.	Corn and Potatoes

The above Plan shews what Crops will be taken from the said farm annually; and these at a very moderate estimate will produce as follow.

16 acres in Indian Corn a 12 bushls. is 192 bushls. a 3/ is £28. 16—
Same in Potatoes.....Do.....Do.....2/ ....19. 4—
16 acs..Wheat.....10.....160.....6/ ....48. 0—
16 acs..B. Wheat.....10.....160.....2/ 16. 0
16 acs..Oats.....15.....240.....2/6....30.
16 acs..Clover, or Vegitables being uncertain.....00. 0. 0

Total besides Clover or &ca.....£142. 0. 0
Rent of 100 acres at a bushel and a half of Wheat or a dollar and half pr Acre..... 45. 0. 0

Remains for the Tenant..... 97. 0. 0

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In England, where taxes and Rents are both high, it is estimated that if *every* thing which is raised on the farm, will sell for three times the Rent, that the Farmer is in eligable circumstances. One third pays the Rent, another third the taxes, and all other incidental expenses of the Farm and the remaining third is applied to whatever purposes the farmer may chuse. The above principles and proportions apply equally to large, and small Farms.[18]

*To GOVERNOR OLIVER WOLCOTT

Philadelphia, February 1, 1796.

Sir: I have been duly honored with your letter of the 21st. Ulto. announcing the death of Mr. Huntington,[19] late Governor of Connecticut.

At the sametime that I regret the loss of so worthy a character, I cannot but feel consoled that the Administration of the Government of that State has fallen into such good hands as yours. And let me pray you to accept my sincere thanks for the assurance therein given of your readiness to observe the relationship, which it bears to the general Government.

I feel equally obliged by the expression of your concern for the attacks which have been made upon my Administration. If the enlightened, and virtuous part of the Community will make allowances for my involuntary errors I will promise they shall have no cause to accuse me of wilful ones. Hoping for the first, I feel no concern on account of the latter.

Your Son,[20] so far as my knowledge of him extends, is a very deserving character. He discharges the duties of his Office with

[18] From the facsimile of the original in the Cornell University Library, published by L. H. Bailey in 1936.

[19] Samuel Huntington.

[20] Oliver Wolcott, jr. He was Secretary of the Treasury.

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integrity and ability; and, I am persuaded may bid defiance to all those who seem to be continually on the lookout for occasions (without being at the trouble to investigate facts) to arraign the conduct of public Officers. With great esteem and respect I am, &c.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 2, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I transmit herewith the Copy of a letter dated the 19th of December last, from Governor Blount[21] to the Secretary of War stating the avowed and daring designs of certain persons to take possession of lands belonging to the Cherokees, and which the United States have by Treaty solemnly guaranteed to that Nation. The injustice of such intrusions, and the mischievous consequences, which must necessarily result therefrom, demand that effectual provision be made to prevent them.[22]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, February 7, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter, begun on the 31st. of last month, and ended the 2d. of this, came, with the Reports enclosed, duly to hand yesterday; together with the list of Dower Negros which are taken exactly as I wished. I now wish you would forward to me a list of all the remaining Negros on the Estate; distinguishing French's from the others; and both made out in the manner of the last, giving the ages &ca.

[21] William Blount, Governor of the Southwest Territory.
[22] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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After I hear from you again, respecting a Miller, I shall be better able to determine than now, whether to send a Miller from hence or not; especially as, all circumstances considered, it may be found as well to sell the Wheat in grain as to grind it, if the Mill can be rented on Advantages terms before the next Manufacturing season comes on, of which I request you to be particular in your enquiries that I may know the utmost she will Rent for.

Let me know in your next (for the Mill report gives no account of it) what quantity of flour is ground: and I should be glad to know as nearly as you can give a guess from what you have already got out of the Straw, the quantity remaining in it. In short I wish to know as nearly as may be conjectured (with certainty I am sensible it cannot be) the whole amount of the last years crop, of this Article.

I never was under any apprehension, from the fall in the price of Wheat or flour in Alexandria, that I had missed the market for mine; and I am more convinced now than ever, that both will be higher than it ever has been. The high bounty given by the British Parliament for the importation of both these articles into that country; the scarcity in Europe generally, and the great demand for the latter in the West Indies; will raise the Market beyond any thing ever known in this country. Wheat at this moment is at 20/ pr Bushel, and flour at fourteen dollars pr. Barrel and rising in this City. Keep me advised of the Alexandria prices.

If you can get a *good* workman who will be industrious and sober (and not extravagent) it would not only be my wish to have the North end of the Mansion house thoroughly repaired, but every other part of it; with the Pillars of the Piazza, covered ways to the Kitchen and Servants hall, compleatly

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repaired also; together with the sashes of all the houses where they require it. And I would have Venetian blinds made for the windows above, on the west side of the house like those below, but to fit better than they do. Or, if the windows are so framed as to permit it, these Venetian blinds would look, and be better on the out side; to open and shut (by means of hinges) like those on the front door, but in a neater Stile. If they are made for the outside above, the same must be below, in order to corrispond; or it would have an odd appearance. In that case the blinds now in use may be worked up. It must be a good workman to execute these several jobs (for I would have none of them done in a bungling manner), and that they may come lighter to me, as jobs of this sort must be undertaken at day wages, let Isaac and the boy assist, under his direction, in slitting out and trying up the stuff from the rough.

The check which Doctr. Stuart has given you on the Bank of Alexandria you may lay out in Stock (or shares) therein. I do not know the cost of a share, but if it wants a little aid to complete a share, or certain number of shares, and you have the means of affording it, I would have you do so. But tell Doctr. Stuart when you see him, that I apprehend he is under a mistake in charging me three years hire of Peter. The last time he paid *me* money (which cannot be three years ago) the hire of Peter was allowed for therein; and a receipt taken for the same; or else my memory has failed me exceedingly. This however, if an error, can easily be rectified by having recourse to that settlement, or to the receipts.

If Mrs. Davenport means to remove to Norfolk, you may aid her with a little money to do so; to the amount of three, four or five pounds, according to circumstances.

You will perceive by the enclosed advertisement, which is intended more as an essay to see whether I can rent my farms

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upon the terms[28] I shall probably transmit you in my next letter, than from any sanguine expectation of doing it, what my wishes and views are: which may be summed up in a few words, namely, to make the remainder of my days, if I should live to finish my present term of Service, as free from care and trouble as possible; to reduce my income (be it little or much) to a certainty; and to see my farms in the hands of a number of Tenants (if it can be accomplished agreeably to my publication) who are professed farmers, who understand, and will cultivate them in the manner most approved in England, with allowance for the differences of climate.

I shall, if I have time, give you in my next, as mentioned above, the terms on which I will let my farms. In the meantime, I repeat, that I have little expectation that any considerable change will take place in the system of my affairs at Mount Vernon in the course of next year, or if there should, that it will make any difference with respect to yourself; as your services and my inclination to employ you, will be as great, and as essential to carry it into effect as to superintend them in their present state.

My wish is to get associations of farmers from the old countries, who know how (from experience and necessity) to keep the land in an improving state rather than the slovenly ones of this, who think (generally) of nothing else, but to work a field as long as it will bear any thing, and until it is run into gullies and ruined; and then at another; without affording either any aid. To obtain such associations from abroad I do not think very improbable; because the Newspaper which will contain my advertisement and make the matter known at least in England, Scotland and Ireland, and because the emigrants from

[28] See Terms in Which the Farms at Mount Vernon May Be Obtained, Feb. 1, 1796, *ante*.

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all those Countries have been, and will continue to be, very great; perhaps more so when Peace takes place than now.

Request the Printer in Alexandria to insert in his paper the enclosed Advertisement three different times with an interval of a fortnight between each. Let the [illegible] each time appear in the paper. And if you have not already done it, answer the enquiry respecting Rents &ca. as desired. I wish you well and am etc.

PS. I hope you have recovered of yr. Rheumatic complaint.

*To DAVID STUART

(Private)

Philadelphia, February 7, 1796.

Dear Sir: I am glad to find by the last letters which we have received from our friends in the Federal city that you had recovered from the indisposition the preceeding ones announced.

You will perceive by the enclosed Advertisement, that I am making an essay to accomplish what I communicated to you in *confidence* when I was last in Virginia. I call it an essay because I am have no sanguine expectation of ameliorating the plan so far as to carry it into complete effect in the course of next year. If I can succeed so far as to be enabled to give up the Dower Negros *at all* and upon terms below what impartial men shall say their hire is worth it will amount to the full extent of my expectation; and this I would wish to accomplish before the other part of my plan is attempted: and reasons enough it will be, when it is considered how much the Dower Negros and my own are intermarried, and the former with the neighbouring Negros, to part will be an affecting, and trying events happen when it will. For which, and other reasons, I wish no mention to be made thereof until the way is a little

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more open; until I see what effect the Advertisement will have; and until from these developments, I shall be able to take more decisive measures; or in other words, how I shall be able to support myself without these aids. If I can accomplish the first part of the plan, in any manner tolerably convenient and satisfactory to all that are interested in it, I certainly will do it. The other part must depend in some measure upon the succedaneum; and an eligable mode of carrying it into affect. The current of my wishes sets stronger to the second, than to the first part of the plan, but reasons of a political, indeed of imperious nature must made it a posterior operation.

Among other reasons for promulgating, so extensively as I mean to do, the renting of my farms, is the expectation that some of the Gazettes in which the advertisement is inserted, will find there way into England and Scotland; and may induce such Associations as are therein alluded to, to farm and come out; for I have no idea of frittering up the farms for the accomodation of our country farmers, whose knowledge, practice at least, centre in the destruction of the land, and very little beyond it. I neither expect nor desire, that Associations from either England or Scotland would form and come out haphazard; but such Associations might send a confidential person to espy the land, and report to them: and if it should fall in your way to suggest anything of this sort to any of the *British* merchants (In Alexandria or Dumfries only I mean) of your acquaintance *as from yourself* I should be obliged to you. I shall, in less than a week, or on this day week, communicate the terms on which these farms will be Let to Mr. [illegible]

I find by our last letters from the Federal city, that Betsey Custis has cast her lot; very much she says to her own satisfaction, having given it due weight and consideration in *every* point of view she could place the matter: of course disparity in

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age could not have escaped. Mr. Law, so far as I have obtained any knowledge of his character, is a respectable man and much esteemed; and is reputed to be wealthy: but he is a stranger, and may, at least in a degree, be an Agent; for which reasons, I think prudence requires, and as a man of honor he cannot refuse, to make a settlement upon her previous to marriage; of her own fortune if [*sic*] no more.

Speaking on this subject, it reminds me of another, which has analogy to this, that is, in allotting to Mr. Peter, the Negro which fell to the share of his wife did you advertise to the circumstance, that Mrs. Washington's *Dower Negros* (which were hired to her father were not to have been among those to a share of whom she had any claim? If you did not, and they assisted to form the aggregate, of which the division was made, the proceeding was either [illegible] I am under a misconception of the right of Washington Custis. I suggest the query for information, 1st as to the fact, next, if the case has happened, as to the right; because if a mistake has happened the sooner it is rectified the better. With great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, February 10, 1796.

Dear Sir: On Saturday last I received your letter of the 24th. Ulto.

Presuming that Mr. Keith has sent you all the attested accounts of my Executorship of the Estate of Colo. Thomas Colvill, in which the affairs of John Colvill his brother (to whom he was Executor) were involved; together with the Will of the former and the claims originating from an extraordinary devise which you will find therein, I am at a loss to know what more you require than is contained in those papers when you

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wish I would give you the general out lines of the business, that you may be enabled thereby to frame the Bill.

I have no Papers *now* by me except copies of the Accounts which have been settled with the Court, authentic copies of wch. I presume you have received; and having very little knowledge in Chancery proceedings I hardly know where to begin or end a story that may subserve your purpose. I will, however, attempt to detail some facts relative to the business which has involved me in much unexpected vexation and trouble in order that I may, as soon as possible, be rid of it.

You must know then that in a visit to Colo. Thos. Colvill on his death bed (an unlucky one I have ever since deemed it) he informed me, that he had appointed me one of his Exrs. I told him that my numerous engagements of a similar kind, would not permit me to discharge the duties of one. He urged; I refused; he pressed again, assuring me that *all* the trouble would be taken off my hands by his wife and Mr. Jno. West (who married his niece) that he wished only for my name, and that I would now and then *only* inquire how matters were conducted by those first named. Unwilling to make the last moments of a worthy and respectable character uneasy, I yielded to his request; and having so done I would not be worse than my word and qualified accordingly: and, when it suited my convenience, occasionally assisted; until my services were required by the County in wch. I lived, to attend the State Conventions at Williamsburgh and Richmond; by these Conventions to attend the Congresses which were held in this City, and by the latter to take the command of the Army which, and my continuance with the latter comprehended a period of more than ten years. At the expiration of which and my return to private life, I found that Mrs. Colvill and Jno. West both were dead, that no final settlement of the Estate had been

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made. That every thing relative to it was enveloped in darkness, and that, instead of being a mere auxiliary in the business I was compelled, for my own security, to become the sole Actor.

Under these circumstances, and knowledge of Mr. Keiths fitness, from being a professional man; from having been once, a Clerk of a Court, and well acquainted with proceedings of this kind; and from his knowledge of incidents; I employed him to collect, and digest the materials, which were to be found among the papers of Mrs. Colvill and West into a final settlement: and nothing short of his assiduity and knowledge of the subject, could have exhibited the accounts in the manner they have appeared. Sure I am, that I could not have framed the accounts from the materials which were exhibited.

I ought to have mentioned in an earlier part of this detail, that one of the first acts of the Executors was to publish in the English papers an extract of the Will of Colo. Thos. Colvill making the nearest relations of his Mother, his residuary Legatees. This bequest and publication raised a host of claimants, one of whom, through the medium of General Howe, while he commanded the B: forces in America *demanded* in an open impudent and imperious letter which passed through the hands of that Officer the restitution of an Estate worth *Forty thousand* pds. which he said was the Surplus of the Estate and due to him; altho the very clause under which he claimed expressed a doubt of there being any surplus at all.

If this concise account is inadequate to the purposes of a Bill, I pray you to propound specific questions, and they shall receive immediate answers. My objects are simply these; 1st, as the surplus, after paying the debt and Legacies, is now precisely ascertained; after many lawsuits and much difficulty; I wish that those who have the best right to it, may receive the benefit of the donation; and 2d, that I may know where, and in what

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manner to dispose of the money; not being willing to hold it, nor to have anything to do with those who may claim it. I accordingly, as I have been advised, turn the *whole* matter over to the Chancellor; who at the same time that he affords relief to me, will do Justice to others. With sincere friendship, I am Your affectionate Uncle.

PS. Since writing the aforegoing letter, in a Trunk which I do not often look into, I found the bundle of Papers herewith sent. Papers which I thought were in the Possession of Mr. Keith; and doubted not, had been forwarded to you. Among them, you will find a *special* rect. to George Chalmers; who had Collected on acct. of a Bond from Sidney George £100 Maryland money, and thought he had paid it to Mr. Jno. West; but from a removal, or absence from Papers, could not prove it, tho' by guarding against the consequences, of it makes precaution on my part necessary in the *final* exhibition of my trust lest, in my own person, I become liable for what the Estate of Colvill ought to pay.

When you have got all the information which the papers now forwarded can give you, return such as may be useful to me, and let the others, if necessary, remain in the Chancery. Yours as before.

*To ELIZABETH PARKE CUSTIS

Philadelphia, February 10, 1796.

My dear Betsey: I have obeyed your injunction in not acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the first instant until I should hear from Mr. Law. This happened yesterday; I therefore proceed to assure you, if Mr. Law is the man of your choice, of wch. there can be no doubt, as he has merits to engage your affections, and you have declared that he has not only done so, but that you find, after a careful examination of

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your heart, you cannot be happy without him; that your alliance with him meets my approbation. *Yes,* Betsey, and this approbation is accompanied with my fervent wishes that you may be as happy in this important event as your most Sanguine imagination has ever presented to your view. Along with these wishes, I bestow on you my choicest blessings.

Nothing contained in your letter, in Mr. Laws, or in any other from our friends intimate *when* you are to taste the sweets of Matrimony; I therefore call upon *you,* who have more honesty than disguise, to give me the details. Nay more, that you will relate all your feelings to *me* on this occasion: or as a Quaker would say "all the workings of the spirit within."

This, I have a right to expect in return for my blessing, so promptly bestowed, after you had concealed the matter from me so long. Being entitled therefore to this confidence, and to a compliance with my requests, I shall look forward to the fulfilment of it.

If after marriage Mr. Laws business should call him to this City, the same room which Mr. Peter and your sister occupied will accomodate you two; and it will be equally at your service.

You know how much I love you, how much I have been gratified by your attentions to those things which you had reason to believe were grateful to my feelings. And having *no* doubt of your continuing the *same* conduct, as the effect will be pleasing to *me,* and unattended with any disadvantage to *yourself,* I shall remain with the sincerest friendship, and the most Affectionate regard, etc. [M. L.]

*To THOMAS LAW

Philadelphia, February 10, 1796.

Sir: Yesterday's Mail brought me your letter of the 4th Instant; and that of Saturday announced from Miss Custis

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herself, the Union which is pending between you. No intimation of this event, from any quarter, having been communicated to us before, it may well be supposed that it was a matter of Surprize.

This being premised, I have only to add, that as the parties most interested are agreed, my approbation, in which Mrs. Washington unites, is cordially given; accompanied with best wishes that both of you may be supremely happy in the alliance. I must however, tho' it is *no immediate* concern of mine, be permitted to hope, as the young lady is in her non-age, that preliminary measures has been, or will be arranged with her Mother and Guardian, before the Nuptials are Solemnized.

We shall hope that your fortunes (if not before) will, by this event, be fixed in America; for it would be a heart rending circumstance, if you should seperate Eliza from her friends in this country. Whether the Marriage is to take place soon, or late, we have no data to judge from but be it as it will, if you should bring her to Philadelphia, we invite you both to this house. With very great esteem and regard I am etc. [M. L.]

*To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

Philadelphia, February 11, 1796.

Dear Sir: Let me request the favor of you to cause the Advertisement herewith sent to be published three times in the Hartford Gazette which has the most extensive circulation; with an interval of two weeks between each. Be so good as to pay the printer for doing this, or send his account therefor to Mr. Trumbull,[24] to whom the money shall be paid at sight.

Mr. Trumbull has informed you of my want of a good Narranganset.[25] Is it easy to procure one of a proper size for my

[24] Jonathan Trumbull.
[25] A breed of Rhode Island pacing horses.

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weight and as well formed as that breed permits? Altho' a bay would be preferred, no colour would be objected to. When it is said I am in want, I do not mean *immediate* want, any time next spring, or even summer wou'd answer my purposes.

Altho' you did not accompany a fine Salmon which I received in the month of January, (early) with a note, I was at no loss in conjecturing from whence it came and pray you to accept my best thanks for this instance of your polite attention to me. Present me if you please to Mrs. and Miss Wadsworth, and be assured of the great esteem etc.

*To ISAAC CRAIG

Philadelphia, February 13, 1796.

Sir: I will thank you for causing the enclosed to be inserted three times in the Pittsburgh Gazette; with an interval of a fort night or three weeks between each publication; and I should be further obliged to you for having one of them pasted up at the door of the most frequented tavern, or other conspicuous place in that Town. Have the like done, if you please, at Union Town, or place of embarkation on the Monongahela. And if you could give me any data from whence to form an opinion of the value, or the price it is probable I could sell the Ohio and other lands for by the Acre or tract, on the credit which is proposed to be allowed, I would thank you. Let me know the cost of the advertisement, and it shall be paid to yr. order. I am etc.

PS. Let me ask your care of the enclosed to General Putnam.

*To RUFUS PUTNAM

Philadelphia, February 13, 1796.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed, that I am disposed to sell the land I possess on the Western Waters, and on

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what terms. Let me request the favor of you therefore, to cause these notifications to be pasted up in some conspicuous part of the Town of Mariatte, and elsewhere lower down (but above Cincinnati) in such a manner as to give them a reasonable chance of remaining there, and legible for sometime. And I would take it kind of you, to let me know what you think the Lands lying on the Ohio, Great Kanhawa and little Miama would, or ought to sell for on the credit which is proposed to be given, by the Acre, or Tract, as they are described which I believe is correct. With esteem etc.

PS. Upon second thoughts, I pray you to request some friend of yours at Cincinnati to set up one or two of the Advertisements at that place.[26]

To JAMES MADISON

February 13, 1796.

Dear Sir: I thank you for forwarding Mr. Campbells[27] letter; and whenever I shall have the pleasure of seeing you (for I would not put you to the trouble of calling for that purpose only) I will converse with you upon the subject of it.

I confess, in the meantime, that I do not see upon what ground the application is made, to *me*. I can hardly suppose, Congress will disband the Troops *now* in service, and supply their place with Militia; consequently, if the Western Posts are (when surrendered) to be garrisoned by the regular Troops, there could be no propriety in placing him over the heads of the Officers who belong to them. If on the other hand, this service is to be performed by Militia; It does not lye with me to call, specially, on him or any other Militia Officer to command them.

[26] The P. S. is from a photostat of the letter sent, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

[27] Arthur Campbell.

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[In either case, I do not see the foundation of the application. Yours etc.][28]

*To THOMAS LEWIS

Philadelphia, February 13, 1796.

Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed notification, one of which I request the favor of you to cause to be posted up in some public place (secure from weather) at Mount Pleasant that I am disposed to sell all the lands I hold on the Western Waters.

Will you permit me to ask, what you conceive those Lands most within your knowledge would sell for, by the Acre, or tract; on the credit which is proposed to be allowed. If you are disposed to give me your opinion on this head let me request your answer by the Post; all other modes of conveyance are uncertain. I am etc.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, February 13, 1796.[29]

My dear Sir: In the moment I was closing and dispatching my letters to the Post Office, I learned from the Attorney General of the U. S. that you would be here on the 17th. My mind being continually uneasy on Acct. of Young Fayette, I cannot but wish (if this letter should reach you in time, and no reasons stronger than what have occurred against it) that you would request him, and his Tutor, to come on to this place. on a visit; without avowing, or making a mystery of the object. Leaving the rest to some after decision. In haste, yours always and most Affectionately.

[28] From the printed text in the *Washington-Madison Papers*, sales catalogue, 1892, where it is stated that the bracketed words are supplied by Madison, he having cut off the last line and signature.

[29] On the address sheet, which is postmarked New York, February 15, "New York" is crossed off and "at Philadelphia" substituted.

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*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, February 14, 1796.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, relative to my Executorship of Colo. Colvells Estate, I sent, as therein mentioned, to the person from whom I had purchased the Guinea, or Chinese Hogs which you saw at my Mill; and obtained two; a boar and a sow; the latter with Pig. He informed me, however, that they were not of the *whole* blood; but, in his opinion, improved from their mixture with another breed of Hogs, which he has. They were accompanied with as much Corn as would serve them, plentifully, on the passage; and ordered immediately to the Vessel, which was on the point of Sailing, and did sail yesterday; and a receipt to be taken therefor and brought to me. This not being received until today, I was surprised, (but too late to remonstrate agt. it) at the freight that is charged. But it is the way we are imposed upon here, in almost everything. My love to Mrs. Washington, wch. your aunt joins. I am always etc. [H. S. P.]

*To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Philadelphia, February 15, 1796.

Sir: Since my last to you in December, I have been favored with your letter of the 15th. of September, on the subject of Iron Bridges.

The invention is ingenious, and if it answers as well in practice as it appears in theory, it will be a valuable and useful discovery. I see no reason why it should not, as the construction is upon mathematical principles. I should fear, however, if you have not been correct in your estimates and comparison, that a bridge formed of Iron must cost more than one of Stone, both

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having the same span. But as I have had no leizure to examine the matter accurately, this may be a very erroneous opinion of mine.

The Mechanics of these United States, are in the practice of building bridges of Wood, that are not exceeded any where, for span of Arch, convenience, appearance and cheapness. One lately erected over Piscataqua River in the State of New Hampshire, has a span of 244 feet in one Arch, but the want of durability in bridges built of such perishable materials, is a serious objection to them.

The more I have revolved the plan of renting the farms of my Mount Vernon Estate, the more inclined I am to the measure, and that my intention in this respect; as well as in the sale of certain lands which I possess on the Western Waters, may be known, I have caused a notification (as you will perceive by the enclosed hand-bills wch are copies thereof) to be inserted in some of the public gazettes of this country; but without much expectation of carrying it into effect the ensuing year.

Having taken the liberty of bringing you acquainted with the preliminary steps to this measure, I now offer the plan in a more advanced stage; but upon the same principle, and under the same restrictions contained in my last, namely, that it may be communicated (not by way of public notification, nor at all, if it militates in any degree with the declared policy of the British government) to any man, or set of men, who you may have reason to believe are disposed to migrate to this country; and would wish to avail themselves of the information therein contained.

As it relates to tenants, I should wish for peaceable, industrious and skilful farmers; to obtain such, I must resort to some other country than this, where little knowledge of husbandry is possessed, and less care used in the practice of it, to keep the

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land from a ruinous course. For many reasons, the similarity of language not least, I would prefer those of yours.

Numbers come daily, by individual families; and more from habit than any advantage I ever could discover, arrive at this City and New York. But Individuals who have not capitols equal to my undivided farms, would not answr. my views, forasmuch as it would not be convenient, or agreeable to me, to let a part, and retain a part of the same farm. With esteem &c.

PS. Enclosed also, are the terms on which I propose to give Leases.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, February 15, 1796.

My dear Sir: On thursday last I received your letter of —— (now in the hands of Colo. Pickering, and date not remembered).

The business relative to the Arsenal at the Mouth of Shenandoah, has been *shamefully* neglected: and, (but under the rose I make the observation) I fear with design; for I was continually reminding the Officer whose duty it was to carry the measure into effect, of the improvident delay; and about a fortnight ago, finding the matter remained in Statu quo, I gave a peremptory order for the execution: and was informed since, by the Gentleman, that he had written to you on the subject. How it comes to pass that you should be ignorant of this, at the date of your letter, there being sufficient time for the receipt of the former, is somewhat misterious. Allowances ought, unquestionably, to be made for the multiplied duties of two Offices, which were discharged by one person; but the footing on which this business stood, and my frequent enquiries into it, ought to have produced more promptness in the Execution. I

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hope no change in price, will force a change of place; and that the thing will go on as if no delay had happened.

I am very glad to find that the Affairs of the Potomack Company are in so promising a train, and wish Captn. Myers may prove an acquisition in the Superintendance of them.

I pray you to let me have a statement of my account with you; and for informing me precisely, what shares I hold in the Banks of Alexandria and Columbia. My love to Fanny and the Children, and with very great esteem etc.

PS. Mr. White seems to entertain no doubt of a favorable issue to his Mission; but it goes (as everything else does) slowly on.

*To THOMAS PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

Dear Sir: Permit me to intrust the enclosed dispatches to your care, and to request that they may be forwarded agreeably to their directions; but by private conveyances, rather than by the Mail; as I am not disposed to saddle those Gentlemen with the Postage.

Having come to the resolutions which are implied in the enclosed printed notification, I take the liberty of transmitting them to you; for no other purpose, believe me, than merely to put it in your power to say (if enquiries should be made of you) for lands to be rented in the vicinity of the Federal City, or to be sold, that you are possessed of information that may merit attention.

As Wheat is the Staple commodity of the part of the country in which my Mount Vernon estate lies, I mean to fix the rent in that article; and to ask a bushel and half for every acre of arable land in the lease (giving the priviledges contained in

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the printed publication) to be discharged in failure of that Crop in Cash, at the price it bears in the market.

I have very little expectation of accomplishing the Renting part of my plan for next year; nor would I attempt it at all, with the slovenly farmers of this country, if there was a tolerable well grounded hope of getting them from any other; where husbandry is better understood, and more rationally practiced. With great esteem etc.[80]

*To WILLIAM STRICKLAND

Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

Sir: Permit me to congratulate you on your safe arrival in England, from your visit to America; and to hope you have experienced no inconvenience from the voyage.

Having resolved to rent my farms at Mount Vernon, a measure which has been in contemplation two or less years, but not matured until lately, I take the liberty (as you have some knowledge of them) to trouble you with the perusal of a notification which has been published in some of the Gazettes of the United States, relative thereto.

I propose, as the most convenient and equitable mode, both for Landlord and tenant, to make Wheat (which is the staple produce in the part of the country where these farms lye) the standard value of the Rents; and one bushel and an half, the quantum for every Acre contained in the Lease; all of which will be arable, and fit for the Plough; with the priviledges which are detailed in the printed notification: And to allow, in case of failure in this crop, that the Rent may be discharged in cash, at the rate Wheat bears in the Market.

[80] From a facsimile in the "Washington Photostats" in the Library of Congress.

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I have not, I confess, much expectation of disposing of these farms by the time limited, and necessary for the ensuing year; Nor should I be inclined to do it to the slovenly farmers of this country, if there was a well grounded hope of getting them from any other, where husbandry is better understood, and more skillfully practiced than with us. Farmers from various parts of Great Britain are daily arriving in these United States (chiefly to this City and New York) but they come, generally, too unconnected with each other; in too small squads; or too weak handed, when single, to occupy farms as large as mine are, in their undivided state.

Having said thus much, on this subject, I must be permitted to request, that it may be unequivocally understood, that it is not the object of this letter to *invite* emigrants; it means no more, than by intimating my intentions, to put it in your power to inform such as are resolved to transplant themselves, and may incline to become tenants; and who, knowing you have travelled through a considerable part of this country may be making enquiries, to shew what these intentions are. For the purpose I have used the freedom of transmitting the enclosed, and announcing the Rent. With great esteem etc.

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

Sir: When I last had the honor of writing to you, I had hopes, tho' I must confess they were not of the sanguine sort, that I should have been enabled 'ere this, to have given you a more satisfactory account of the business you had been pleased to commit to me, than will be conveyed in this letter.

Doubts having arisen, from peculiar calls in the Treasury of this country for money (occasioned by the expences of our

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Wars with the Indians, the redemption of our captives at Algiers, obtaining peace with that Regency and Morocco, together with other demands in addition to the ordinary expenditures of government) that funds with difficulty would be provided to answer them, without imposing additional taxes, a measure wished to be avoided, I was restrained (after consulting one or two influencial members, of the Legislature) from introducing your plan for a contribution: and, under these circumstances, I avoided communicating the "Extracts from the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture, respecting Mr. Elkingtons mode of draining &ca" except to one gentleman[21] only; in whom I had entire confidence, and who I knew was always disposed to promote measures of utility. These being the grounds of my proceeding, I shall hope, altho' your expectations may be disappointed, you will receive the information as an evidence of my candour.

Agreeably to your desire I have put the "Outlines of the 15th. Chapter of the proposed general report from the Board of Agriculture, on the subject of Manures", into the hands of one of the most judicious farmers[22] within my reach and when his observations thereon are received they shall be transmitted to you. I wish my own engagements would allow me time to attend, more than I do, to these agreeable, and useful pursuits but having been absent from what I consider my proper home (except on short occasional visits) for more than seven years; and having entered into my 65th. year, a period which requires tranquillity and ease, I have come to a determination to lease the farms of my Mount Vernon Estate, except the Mansion house farm, and a grazing one 3 miles off; which I shall retain in my own occupation, for amusement, whilst life and health

[21] James Madison.
[22] See Washington's letter to Richard Peters, Mar. 4, 1796, *post*.

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is dispensed to me. And as many farmers from your country have emigrated to this, and many more, according to their accounts, desirous of following, if they knew before hand where and on what terms they could fix themselves compactly; in a healthy and populous country; I have taken the liberty to enclose you the copy of a notification which I have published in some of the Gazettes of the United States; that in case any farmers answering the descriptions therein contained are about to transplant themselves, to whom you might be inclined to give the information, that you may have it in your power to do so. But let me entreat you, Sir, to believe that I have no wish to its promulgation farther than I have declared. that I have no intention to *invite* emigrants, even if there are no restrictive acts against it; and if there be, that I am opposed to it altogether.

As Wheat is the staple produce of that part of the country in which this estate lyes, I shall fix the rent therein, at a bushel and half for every acre of arable land contained within the lease; to be discharged, in case of failure of that crop, at the price the article bears in the market. Two or three years ago I sent Mr. Young a sketch of the farms, with all the fields, meadows and lots, with their relative situations, laid down from actual Surveys.

I have but little expectation that arrangement will be made by the time limitted, for giving possession of the farms next year, nor should I wish to do it with such unskilful farmers as ours, if there was a prospect of obtaining them from any other country, where husbandry was better understood, and more advantageously practiced. It is time however to conclude, for I feel myself ashamed at having employed so much of it in matters interesting to myself only; and I shall do it with assurances as sincere as they are warm of being, Sir your etc.

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*To THE EARL OF BUCHAN

Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

My Lord: Having seen several persons from the vicinity of your estate of Dryburgh Abbey, with your Lordship's certificates of their honest and orderly deportment; (one or two of whom I have employed, and found deserving the character) I take the liberty of troubling your Lordship with the perusal of the enclosed annunciation of a design, wch. I have had in contemplation two or three years, but lately only have resolved to carry it into execution.

I accompany the information My Lord, with an unequivocal declaration that, it is not my intention to *invite* Emigrants, even if there be no prohibitory act of your Government opposed to it. My sole object is, if there are persons, on the move who may incline to associate and become tenants on such a plan as I offer, that being apprised of the measure, they may decide how far *their* views would be accommodated by it.

The staple produce of the part of the country in which my Mount Vernon estate lyes, being Wheat, I mean to fix the Rent in that article, as most convenient and equitable for both Landlord and tenant; and I set it at a bushel and a half for every acre contained in the lease, which will be all arable, with the priviledges detailed in the printed notification. In failure of a crop of this article, the Rent may be discharged in cash, at the price it bears in the Market.

I have but little expectation I own, of maturing this plan so as to carry it into full effect next year; nor would I wish to do it with the slovenly farmers of this country, if I had a well founded hope of obtaining this class of Men from any other (particularly from Great Britain) where husbandry is well understood, and the language similar.

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Having had occasion lately, to write to Doctr. Anderson (of Colfield) on other matters, I have detailed my plan much more at large than I chose to trouble your Lordship with; and have sent him a sketch of the Farms, with their relative situation to each other, and divisions into fields, Lanes, lots, &ca; from whence an idea, more accurate than can be formed from the printed notification, might be had; but it is not my wish that any man, or set of men, should engage without first, by themselves or Agents, competently qualified and instructed, viewing the premises and judging for themselves.

I pray your Lordship to present me in respectful terms, in which, Mrs. Washington unites, to Lady Buchan, and that you will be persuaded of the respect and consideration with which etc.

*To THOMAS PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th of October from Madrid, has been duly received.[83] With regret, I read the request which is contained in it;[84] but the footing on which you have placed the matter, forbids opposition, or even persuasion on my part that you would recede from it; altho' the difficulty of supplying your place to my satisfaction; to the satisfaction of your country; or of the Court you will leave, will not be found easy.

Having heard thro' different channels that you had concluded a treaty with Spain, and that the Vessel which had it on board was spoke at Sea; we are in daily and anxious expectation of its arrival. The information has diffused general pleasure; and will be soothing to the inhabitants of the Western

[83] In the *Washington Papers.*
[84] Pinckney had asked to be recalled.

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Waters, who were beginning to grow restive and clamorous to obtain the Navigation.

Since the re-confinement of Mr. de la Fayette (after the attempt made by Doctr Bolman and Mr. Huger,[88] both of whom are now in this City, to effect his escape) we have heard nothing further respecting him, than that his confinement is more rigorous than before. We know indeed, that Madam de la Fayette, and his two daughters have been at Hamburgh; that it was reported they were coming to America; but that instead of doing it, they went to Vienna to try the effect of personal solicitation to obtain his releasement. Newspaper accounts go farther and say they were permitted to proceed to Almutz. But how far the latter information is to be depended upon; and if true, what has, or will be the result, is altogether unknown to me.

I need hardly mention how much my sensibility has been hurt by the treatment this Gentleman has met with; or how anxious I am to see him liberated therefrom; but what course to pursue, as most likely and proper to aid the measure, is not quite so easy to decide on. As President of the U States, there must be a commitment of the Government by any interference of mine; and it is no easy matter in a transaction of *this nature* for a public character to assume the garb of a private citizen in a case that does not relate to himself. Yet such is my wish to contribute *my mite* to accomplish this desirable object, that I have no objection to its being made known to the Imperial Ambassador in London (who, if he thinks proper, may communicate it to his Court) that this event is an ardent wish of the people of the United States, in wch I sincerely add mine. The time, the manner, and even the measure itself, I leave to your discretion; as circumstances and every matter which

[88] Dr. J. Eric Bollman and Francis Kinloch Huger, of South Carolina.

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concerns this Gentleman are better known on that, than they are on this side of the Atlantic.

I shall add no more on this, and but little on any other subject at present. The Gazettes, which I presume you receive, will show you in what manner the public functionaries are treated here. The abuse however, which some of them contain has excited no reply from me. I have a consolation which no earthly power can deprive me of: that of acting from my best judgment; and I shall be very much mistaken, if I do not soon find that the public mind is recovering fast from the disquietude into which it has been thrown by the most willful, artful and malignant mis-representations that can be imagined. The current is certainly turned, and is beginning to run strong the other way. But I am proceeding further than I intended, and will therefore conclude with assurances of the esteem etc.[86]

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, February 21, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Since my last to you, I have received your letters of the 7th and 14th Instant.

I am under no apprehension of flour falling; but keep me advised of the Alexandria price. The fears expressed by the purchasers, of its falling, is calculated to alarm the Sellers. They know full well, it is not likely to happen. The scarcity and demand being so great.

As I wish, after this Crop of Wheat is Manufactured, to Rent my Mill, it would scarcely be worth while to send a Miller from hence, even if I knew where to get one, but that I do not; and therefore would have you do as well as you can to procure one yourself, to grind up the present crop.

[86] From the Pinckney Family Deposit in the Library of Congress.

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The Gentlemen who think 250 dollars a sufficient Rent for my Mill differ very widely from me. This sum would not bring me 2½ pr Ct for the money wch has been expended on her, the Race, &ca. Mr. Digges' Mill near Bladensburgh Rented for £300 Maryld. Money pr Ann. and it was supposed would go much higher when the term (which is now about expiring) was out. But of this you may get particular information from Colo Fitzgerald (one of the Executors) which I wish you would do, and let me know. Mr. Digges's Mill may have a more constant stream of Water than mine, but in no other respect is better; and a considerable alteration will take place in mine, when the New Race is compleated.

Those tenants which you speak of, near Mrs. French's, must pay more than 20/. Rent for every acre of *tillable* land they possess; few of them, if I am not mistaken, having more than ten, 12, or fifteen Acres cleared: and it was the cost of the cleared land I was enquiring after; not what they paid for a lot, when eight-tenths of it might be in Wood; which could produce them nothing. Mine being cleared, and fit for the plough, I wanted to know what others got, as some rule to fix a value thereon.

I do not understand the Alexandria Printer's meaning, when he talks of not having tipes to spare for my Advertisement. Does it take more tipes for that, than any other piece of the same length? If not, would he not have the same tipes to use in the interval, between every publication whether of a week, fortnight, or any other given time?

I am willing to encourage the Bank of Alexandria if it is not at too great a loss, in the purchase of New shares, and therefore leave you at liberty to apply the money that way under that restriction only.

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The repairs to the North end of the Mansion house, and perhaps some others, are so essential, that you must engage the person whom you had in view to do them, upon the best terms you can; whether he is aided by the Negro carpenters or not.

I see by the last weeks report that Cæsar has been absent six days. Is he a runaway? If so, it is probable he will escape altogether, as he can read, if not write.

I thought to have given you the terms on which I propose to let my farms, but other matters have engaged me so much, that I have not had time yet to digest them to my satisfaction; but you shall have them as soon as I am able to do it. In the mean time, if any enquiries have been made, let me know it and the tendency of them.

I am sorry you entertain a doubt of remaining with me another year; for whether I retain the farms; Rent them; or do both, in part; your services would be equally essential to me: and my unwillingness to look out for another Manager would be equally great: especially as I should, so soon after, quit public life, and settle myself once more in Peace, under my own Vine and fig tree; and could, thereafter, attend more to my own business than I am able to do at present. And as it is probable too your health may be better, after you are more innured to a Water situation. For these reasons I hope your determination is not so fixed but it will be altered. I wish you well etc.[87]

To THE PHILADELPHIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY

[February 22, 1796.]

Gentlemen: The principles of benevolence on which the Society you represent is founded, and which regulate its

[87] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

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proceedings, entitle it to the approbation of all your fellow Citizens. The congratulations of such a Society I receive with particular pleasure: and the satisfaction resulting from my constant exertions to promote the Welfare of my Country will be increased, if my public services shall at the same time have contributed to render it a grateful residence to persons emigrating from foreign Countries. Your kind wishes, Gentlemen, for the continuance of my health and happiness claim and receive my cordial thanks.[88]

To THE SENATE

United States, February 26, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I send herewith the Treaty concluded on the 27th of October last between the United States and Spain[89] by their respective Plenipotentiaries.

The Communications to the Senate referred to in my message of the 16th. of December 1793 contain the instructions to the Commissioners of the United States, Messrs. Carmichael and Short, and various details relative to the negociations with Spain. Herewith I transmit Copies of the documents authorizing Mr. Pinckney the Envoy extraordinary from the United States to the Court of Spain, to conclude the negociation, agreeably to the original instructions above mentioned; and to adjust

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*, where the address from the Emigration Society and also the constitution of that society is entered.

On February 22 Representative William Loughton Smith of South Carolina moved that the House of Representatives adjourn for half an hour to enable the members to pay their respects to the President. After debate the motion was voted down 50 to 38.

From the *Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer* (Philadelphia: 1893) is the following: "February 22. At noon Speaker Hare, of the Senate, and Speaker Latimer, of the House, [of the Pennsylvania Legislature] with their members, called on President Washington to congratulate him on his birthday. He stood in the center of the back room, where he bowed to each member as he passed into the front room, where cake and wine were served. At night the ladies and gentlemen had a dance at Rickett's riding place, southwest corner Sixth and Chestnut Streets."

[89] This treaty of Friendship, Limits, and Navigation was ratified by the United States, Mar. 7, 1796, and proclaimed Aug. 2, 1796.

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the Claims of the United States for the Spoliations committed by the Armed Vessels of his Catholic Majesty on the Commerce of our Citizens.

The numerous papers exhibiting the progress of the negociation under the conduct of Mr. Pinckney, being in the French and Spanish languages, will be communicated to the Senate as soon as the translations which appear necessary shall be completed.[40]

*To GEORGE WASHINGTON MOTIER LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, February 28, 1796.

My dear young friend: My desire to see you, is such, that I request that you and Mr. Festal, will make me a visit about the first of April at this City; by that time the weather will be settled, the roads good, and the travelling pleasant.

Colo. Hamilton will be the channel thro' which this letter will be conveyed to you; and my wish is that you and Mr. Festal would come by the way of New York to this City, and there make necessary arrangements with that Gentleman with respect to your proceeding hither.

Any thing of which you stand in need, will be furnished by Colo. Hamilton on my behalf. With best wishes and the most Affecte. regard I remain etc.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, February 28, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 21st. instt. with the Reports of the preceeding week came to my hands yesterday. I do not recollect that I have missed writing to you by Mondays Posts since you returned from the Eastern shore.

*From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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I have no doubt of your having many applications to Rent, both my farms and Mill; but I question if it be from such persons, or on such terms, as I would chuse to engage; for which reason, all I would have you do in the matter, is, to inform me of their names, of what place they are, what their views are &ca. which you may request them to give in writing, for the purpose of transmitting the same to me. I must know my men, and how capable they are of doing justice to me, the land, and the objects I have in view; before I shall part with the property. In a word, but this I mention for your own information, I shall not be in a hurry, or fond of renting to the slovenly farmers of this Country, if I thought there was a well grounded hope of getting them from any other; where husbandry is better understood, and more profitably practiced. I furnish you however, with the terms on which I mean to lease my lands, if I do it at all, and wish to know what you and others think of them; and the probability of my disposing of them agreeably thereto.

I would have you take ten shares in the Bank of Alexandria, as you have the means to purchase them.

By your last account of the price of flour in Alexandria it had risen: keep me advised of the price, and I will tell you when to sell. In the meantime, hurry the grinding as much as you can, that the whole may go off at once.

If, after your New ground is compleated, you could find time to open the New road from the White gates towards the Gum spring, it would be pleasing, and no matter whether it strikes the old road above the little field (in the wood) or not; as it would be the straighter for it. But as I have said on former occasions, I do not require you to undertake it, if it should interfere with more important work; or if it cannot (at least such part as is undertaken) be executed in a complete manner; for I should not like to be jolting over stumps in passing it with a carriage.

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What grubbing have you accomplished in field No. 4 at Union Farm? How does the Winter grain look after all the open, and wet weather which we have had? And how does my old white horse stand it?

There is a vessel now up for Alexandria, by which I shall send you three bushels of Clover seed, altho' I am obliged to pay at the rate of 2/6 pr. lb. for it. I shall also send you some Rye grass seeds provided a tryal which I am now making of its goodness (being imported seed) proves satisfactory. If I should send the latter seed, I would have you sow it in some place where seed can be saved from it, rather than spread it sparsely over the ground at Mansion H. which was in Corn last year. The Books you have, will tell you how thick it ought to be sown, to cover the ground well.

Herewith you will receive a parcel of Seeds for the Gardener; but I request you to tell him, in positive terms, that he *must,* in future, save his own seeds; for I cannot be eternally buying seeds in the manner I am, merely because it saves trouble; when the cost falls so heavy upon me; especially too, as it is an equal chance that the Seed is bad. I think of nothing else at present; but wish you well, and am etc.

*To GEORGE CLINTON

Philadelphia, February 28, 1796.

Dear Sir: To the enclosed, I answered in a note, that the whole of the business to which it related, was entrusted to you: from whom, if application was made, complete information might be obtained.

A few days afterwards, Mr. Cooper[41] applied to me personally; intimated that the land was valuable; that he was desirous

[41] William Cooper. He was judge of Otsego County and Member of Congress from New York.

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of purchasing; and would give a good price for it. I answered as before, and added that much of the land had already been disposed of. Repeating his wish to know what part remained unsold, and the terms on wch. it could be obtained, are the causes of my troubling you with this letter and its enclosure. Whatever answer you incline to give to them, let it be so framed as that it may be *shewn* to Mr. Cooper. With great esteem and regard. I am etc. [H.L.]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 1, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation concluded between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty having, been duly ratified, and the ratifications having been exchanged at London on the 28th day of October 1795, I have directed the same to be promulgated;[42] and herewith transmit a Copy thereof for the information of Congress.[43]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Thursday Morn: March 3, 1796.

Dr. Sir: I perceive by Bache's Paper of this Morning, that Mr. Livingston[44] has laid a Resolution on the Table,[45] requesting the President to lay before the House a copy of Instructions to

[42] This presidential proclamation proclaiming Jay's Treaty in effect was issued on Feb. 29, 1795. It is in the usual form and recites the entire text of treaty. The original is in the Department of State. No transcript is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[43] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[44] Edward Livingston, Representative from New York.

[45] Livingston's resolution, offered March 2, was laid on the table by the House. (See message to the House of Representatives, Mar. 30, 1796, *post*.)

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Mr. Jay "who negociated the Treaty with the King of G. B., communicated by his message of the 1st instt. (Feb) together with the corrispondence and documents relative to the said Treaty."

A request somewhat similar to this *was* made, or *about* to be made, I do not now recollect which; nor the conduct that was observed upon the occasion, as it was 2, 3 or more years ago; but as Colo. Hamilton was privy to it, I would thank you, if he has not left the City, to see and converse with him thereon; learn what the case and result was; and what he thinks ought to be the conduct of the President if Mr. L— motion reaches him. Cases of this kind are to be found in the proceedings of the B. Ho. of Commons but I do not recollect the result. At 10 Oclock the Gentlemen[46] were to meet here by appointment. Yours always [C. H. S.]

*To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 4, 1796.

My dear Sir: Altho' I have but little expectation (from the information which I have received from your Sister, Mrs. Ogden)[47] that this letter, with a copy of my last to you, will reach London before you will have embarked for America, I have determined, nevertheless, to take the chance of it, and accordingly have put it under cover to Mr. Pinckney.

Hitherto the business of the Session, tho' slow in its progress, has been tranquil in discussion. By some misconception of Mr. Deas, or some strange fatality attending his dispatches, the formal ratification of the Treaty by His Britannic Majesty, has never yet been received;[48] but having sufficient, and official

[46] Of the Cabinet.
[47] Mrs. Samuel Ogden (Euphemia Morris).
[48] This was not received until Apr. 22, 1796.

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evidence of the fact, both from Mr. Deas and the British charge des Affaires residing here; it was proclaimed on the 29th Ulto. as the Law of the Land: And being before the House of Representatives, their proceedings thereon must soon appear. The conjecture is, that an attempt (how successful I am unable to inform you) will be made to censure it in several points; and for being disadvantageous to these United States on the whole; but will make provision for carrying it into effect. The debates relative to this Treaty will be, I presume, animated; and if heats are occasioned in the course of the Session, they will proceed from this source. But as it is not my intention to anticipate the debates, or the votes, I shall say nothing further, relatively thereto.

That a great change has been wrought in the public mind, with respect to this Treaty within the last two months, is apparent to every one.

But in the body politic, as in the body natural, when one of its members are disordered (I confine it to members, because I do not believe the *whole* mass has been at all attainted) it requires sometime to effect a perfect cure; especially while there remains a morbid tumuor always working, and difficult to eradicate.

If the people of this country have not abundant cause to rejoice at the happiness they enjoy, I know of no country that has. We have settled all our disputes, and are at Peace with all Nations. We supply their wants with our superfluities, and are well paid for doing so. The earth, generally, for years past, has yielded its fruits bountifully. No City, Town, Village, or even farm, but what exhibits evidences of encreasing wealth and prosperity; while Taxes are hardly known but in name. Yet by the second sight; extraordinary foresight; or some other sight, attainable by a few only, evils afar off are discovered by these,

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alarming to themselves; and as far as they are able to render them so, disquieting to others.

Having come to the resolutions which are implied in the enclosed printed Notification, I have taken the liberty of sending one of them to you; for no other purpose than merely to put it in your power to say (if any enquiries after such property should be made of you, or in your hearing). *See what is offered.*

My wish is to stock my farm with *good* farmers; but it is not my intention (even if there be no restrictive acts against the emigration of this description of people) to use any means to envite foreigners to settle on mine.

The rent I propose to let mine at, is a bushel and half of Wheat (the staple produce of the part of the country in which the estate lies) for every acre of *arable,* contained within the lease; or on failure of that crop, in cash at the price that article bears in the market. With affectionate regard etc.

*To RICHARD PETERS

Philadelphia, March 4, 1796.

Dear Sir: My public duties not allowing me to keep pace with Sir John Sinclairs wishes, is the best apology I can make for giving you the trouble of receiving (if you even should not read) the enclosed: and for requesting, if *your* leisure will not permit you to bestow any attention to his request (which you will find) at the head of the "Out lines of the fifteenth chapter", &ca. that you would prevail on some of the most intelligent farmers of your acquaintance to favor you or me with their observations thereon, for the satisfaction of Sir John; who is zealous in acquiring information, and promoting these measures, which are of great public utility, and very interesting to Agriculture. Yours always. [H. S. P.]

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*To THOMAS PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, March 5, 1796.

Dear Sir: The ship Favourite, by which these dispatches are sent, having been delayed much longer in this Port than was expected, affords me an opportunity of informing you, that the Spanish Treaty arrived here on the 22d. Ulto; that it was laid before the Senate as soon after, as the accompanying Papers could be copied;[49] and that, on the 3d. instant, the Ratification of it was advised and consented to by an unanimous vote of that body. Hence you may form an opinion of the general approbation of your negotiation. With very great esteem &c.[50]

*To JAMES MADISON

Philadelphia, March 6, 1796.

Dear Sir: As you are knowing to the Situation of young Mr. Fayette; to the measures I have adopted in his behalf; to my wishes towards him; and to the restraints under which those wishes have been placed from considerations of a political nature. And as I am unacquainted with the ground work, or the tendency of the motion made by Mr. Livingston, relatively to this young Gentleman; I flatter myself that in the progress of the business before the House, that you will have the goodness, as far as proper representation will avail, to let the result of the motion be such, as it ought; both as it respects him and myself.[51]

[49] See message to the Senate, Feb. 26, 1796, *ante*.

[50] From the Pinckney Family Deposit in the Library of Congress.

[51] On March 4 Livingston's resolution that a committee be appointed to enquire "whether the son of Major General Lafayette be within the United States, and also whether any, and what, provision may be necessary for his support" was offered, and laid on the table. On March 21 Livingston called up this motion and a committee of three members were appointed. This committee reported April 26.

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The United States, are much better able to make provision for this young Gentleman and his family; than I am and I should be highly pleased and gratified to see it accomplished in that mode, because It would be more honorable for them, and a relief to me: but neither the one, nor the other shall want while I have the means of Administering to their relief.

My wish (as has been communicated to you on a formr. occan. was,) and still is, if circumstances would permit it, to take him with his tutor into my family; and, in the absence of his father to superintend his education and morals. and this I am the more desirous of doing as it is the impression under which he appears to this country.

What form, the proceedings on Mr. Livingstons Motion will take, is not for me to say; but my ideas, and feelings on the subject have led me to make these communications of my sentiments to you, who alone, of the House of Representatives, has ever heard me lisp a syllable on this subject. With sincere esteem etc.[52]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 6, 1796.

Sir: I have given your letter of instructions to our Minister at the Court of London, attentive consideration, and approve them; unless the last clause but one should give rise to the negotiation of an article which may not accord with the result of a motion which is pending in the House of Representatives; (introduced, if my memory serves me, by Mr. Smith[53] of Baltimore) of which however I have but an imperfect recollection.

I think too (even with the advantages proposed to be obtained by the reduction) our negotiator should adhere, even to

[52] The original is in the Cornell University Library.
[53] Samuel Smith, Representative from Maryland.

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the hazard of the treaty altogether, to vessels of one hundred tons burthen for the West India trade.

These things, and a general view of the subject, as comprised in the Instructions, added to matters which have been, and may yet be introduced into Congress, which may have relation to the proposed negotiation, incline me to think that it would be better to forbear sending the dispatches for Mr. Pinckney by the ship Favorite (as other conveyances will, no doubt, soon offer), and to take more time in consulting the most intelligent mercantile characters within your reach, on the *principles* and *heads* of the several articles which are the subject of them.

The Instructions ought, in my opinion, to be accompanied with powers. They may be offered, or not, as occasion shall require. They can, with this alternative, do no harm; whereas the want of them, if called for, may occasion a suspension of the measure. Mr. Adams's letter, and Lord Grenvill's propositions, relative to captured vessels of a certain description; and with respect to the pay of the Commissioners, require immediate attention.

Proclamations of the treaties with Spain and Algiers,[54] should issue as soon as they can be prepared; and the ratification of the former despatched as soon as possible. Measures also for carrying these, and the other treaties which have been ratified and proclaimed, into effect, ought to meet with no delay that can be avoided.

And I request you would concert measures with the Secretaries of War, and the Treasury if necessary, for proceeding vigorously and securely with the Arsenal at the confluence of the Potomac and Shannondoah.[55]

[54] The Treaty of Peace and Amity with Algiers was signed Sept. 5, 1795, ratified and proclaimed Mar. 7, 1796. The Algerian captives were released by the Dey, July 8, 1796. The Spanish treaty was proclaimed Aug. 2, 1796. No texts of these proclamations are found in the *Washington Papers*.

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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*To ALEXANDER CONTEE HANSON

Philadelphia, March 7, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d. Ulto. has been duly received; and altho' it is not usual with me to answer letters of application for offices or to assign reasons for non-compliance; yet, from the respectability of your character, I depart from it in the present instance: and doing so, candour requires I should add, that it would be inexpedient to take two of the Associate Judges from the same State. The practice has been (founded I conceive in sound policy) to dissiminate them through the United States.

I have not mentioned, nor shall I mention, the application you have made. I keep no copy of this letter, and that your own may never appear, I transmit it to you, to be disposed of as you shall think proper. With sentiments of esteem etc.

[H. S. P.]

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, March 9, 1796.

Dear Sir: Owing to some irregularity of the Post, your letter of the 29th Ulto. did not reach my hands until 8 Oclock last Night.

I shall leave the management of the chancery business respecting Colvils estate, entirely to you; not only for the purpose of closing it speedily, but effectually also; as I want to be quieted in this business, and to be finally done with it.

Mr. Keith has, to the present stage of the business, had the *sole* management of it; and can give you more correct information than it is in my power to do, of everything relative to it. The vouchers, I presume were satisfactory, but where they

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are I know not; unless they were deposited with the accts; remain in the hands of Mr. Keith, or (as I believe is the case with respect to some of them) are in the bundle I sent you. If I have any of them, they must be at Mount Vernon (packed up with other papers) and not to be got at unless I was there.

But as I mean to put your letter to me, and this answer, with a flying seal under cover to Mr. Keith, he will I hope, give you *all* the information you may need, for the purpose of closing the business, before the closing of the present chancery term.

The personal Estate, as I presume you will be informed by Mr. Keith, has been all accounted for; Nor is there any thing now owing to the Estate within my knowledge. Sydney George's Acct. (which kept the matter open sometime) was the last, and the settlement of that If I mistake not, was among the Papers I sent you. the whole of *that* matter being settled, or negociated by Mr. William Tilghman. If it was not among the Papers sent you, it was left with Mr. Keith. With Affectionate regard I am etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 9, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: As I did not receive your letter of the 28th ulto, until eight o'clock last night; and am hurried this morning in preparing other letters for the Post. I shall do no more than inform you, that besides the Cask of Clove Seed by Captn Hand, there went a small box of Apple grafts for the Gardener. The apples are of a most extraordinary large size, and good for eating. Desire Ehler (as I hope he will receive them in time) to graft them carefully. I do not know what name the Apple goes by; but he may distinguish them by, the large Apple.

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If you have not already purchased shares in the Bank of Alexandria, desist until you hear further from me; but if you have done it, take no notice of this countermand. I wish you better health and am etc.[56]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, March 10, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. of last month did not reach my hands until the evening before last. Why so long delayed, I know not; because the passage from *you* to *me* is certain, after the letter is once in the line of the Posts; tho uncertain from *me* to *you:* and for that reason it has become expedient for you to let me know to whose care (since your mother[57] has left Fredericksburgh) letters for you ought to be directed. Whether through the Post Office of that place, to be lodged at Fauquier Court House, or otherwise. Your Brother[58] is so much absent from Fredericksburgh, as to render it ineligable to put letters under cover to him; of course some channel more certain must be devised.

No good reason occurs to me for the delay in paying the money that was in your hands to Mr. Pearce, or into the Bank of Alexandria, agreeably to the letter I wrote you from Mount Vernon in October last; especially as you had been advised of my wanting it. There is no propriety and less safety (from Robbery, fire and a variety of accidents) to retain the money until every Rent is received; for upon this principle I shall be unable to form any estimate of my dependence. Paying the money, and settling the Rental, are distinct things; The first

[56] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).
[57] Mrs. Fielding (Betty Washington) Lewis.
[58] Howell(?) Lewis.

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may be paid at any time, and will always stand as a credit in the Rental; the latter may be delayed with less inconvenience, but here also, there ought to be a periodical Settlement; that regularity may pervade the System.

The demands upon me for money for one purpose or another, are frequent and great; for which reason, it is, at all times convenient for me to know what my resources are. for this reason also, I wish you had mentioned the amount of your collection. If a good and safe opportunity present, to lodge it in the hands of Mr. Pearce, or at the Bank of Alexandria I wish it to be done so: if not, it may remain until I come home; and the whole be accomplished at once. But, at this time, to say when that will be, is beyond my Ken; as I can form not better judgment *now* of the close of the present Session of Congress, than I was able to do at the hour of its commencement. And till that happens, and perhaps for some short time after, I may not have it in my power to leave the seat of Government. If you, however, will point out the mode by which my letters to you will find a safe conveyance, it will be in my power to give you timely information of my departure from hence.

I would have you place no further dependence on what Muse has said of Colo. Simms's opinion, respecting the invalidity of my Leases, than to obtain other, and the *best* advice thereon; for which purpose send to your Cousin Bushrod Washington, one of each kind (for I think there are different forms) of the printed Leases, and request him, and General Marshall both, to consider, and give you there opinions in writing with respect to the general correctness; and more particularly with respect to my right of enforcing the Covenants, (with damages for past failures) or annulling the leases, and pay them for their opinions. I am very much mistaken, if the draught from which one, if not both, Leases were printed, was not made by a person

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of as much legal knowledge as Colo. Simms. If the gentlemen before named, shall be of opinion that there is no defect in the leases; and think it safe for you to proceed to enforce, or to annul them; I wish you to be governed by, and follow their advice. Hard indeed would it be upon me, to receive only five or Six pounds a hundred Acres, for Lands of a quality equal to that which is renting for five times the sum; and when I thought I had insured valuable improvements on the premises, so as to render the Tenements valuable hereafter, to be cut off from these also; and to have no redress.

Persuaded as I am, that you have rented the reposed lots for as much as you could get, I am perfectly satisfied with what you have done with mine, in Frederick and Berkley; altho' the Rent is lower than what your cousin George Washington[59] (who is now in this City) says he rents Land at.

The waste, which has been committed on my reserved Land, is a very serious evil to the tract to which it appertained; as the quantity, originally reserved was scanty; and, under the circumstances of the case, there appears to be no remedy. If letting out the part cleared, does not occasion a greater diminution of the Wood and Timber, I shall have no objection to your doing it; but not if it is to involve that consequence. I perceive by the enclosed, which Mr. Airy sent me by Mr. George Washington, that another attack is commenced on the said tract. It is his business to prevent incroachment on land in which he has a Leasehold estate; especially as he has it on such advantageous terms; but it may be well for you to have an eye to the matter.

With respect to the Land on Deep run, let it remain as it is untill I see you. My love to Mrs. Lewis in wch. your Aunt joins I am etc.,

[59] George Steptoe(?) Washington.

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*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, March 11, 1796.

Sir: The letters, with their enclosures from Genl. Wilkenson, shew in an additional *strong* point of view, the indispensable necessity of moving the requisite quantity of Provisions and Stores to the upper Posts of the Army, North West of the Ohio. I therefore desire, you will not only *make* the necessary arrangements with Genl. Wayne (to whom the contents of these Papers might be communicated) but *direct* them to be carried into effect without delay; before the Season for Water transportation is lost.

By the returns wch. you have laid before me a number of Muskets with Bayonets (3000) are required! Enquire of Genl. Wayne on what principle, and for what purpose this demand is made. As also what is become of the Arms of those men whose terms of Service have expired.

A great number of Officers appear to be on furlough. One of whom Captn. Sedam,[60] since Novr. 1791; and another, Captn. Heth,[61] since March 1792; these require explanation.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, March 13, 1796.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 26th. Ulto[62] and 2d. Instant, came safe to hand, after some delay. The first, with the Will of Harper, has been put in the hands of the Attorney Genl. to aid him in the conveyances. To such parts of the second, as require it, I am about to reply; first expressing my satisfaction

[60] Capt. Cornelius Ryer Sedam, of the First Sub-Legion. He was honorably discharged, Nov. 1, 1796.

[61] Capt. John Heth, of the Third Sub-Legion. He was transferred to the Third Infantry in 1796 and honorably discharged in June, 1802.

[62] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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at the happy termination of the business which you undertook, in behalf of the Public.

Having no doubt of the correctness of the account, which was transmitted in the last mentioned letter; I have only to beg that you would favor me with the numbers, or other designation or description of all the Shares I now hold in the Banks of Alexandria and Columbia, by your purchases. and to request if you wish to part with any of the twenty shares you purchased in the Potomac Navigation, that you would appropriate the Balance due me, by your account, in as many as it will command; first paying up the Instalment on the old; called for I perceive to be paid for on the first of the present month. If my *present* purposes and gratifications could be answered by prospects of *future* emolument, I would devote all the money I could command to this Investiture but for the few years I have to remain here the enjoyment of less, with ease and certainty, will be more convenient and desirable.

If my resources were adequate to the purchase of the Lot and houses which are offered for Sale in Alexandria, I would clearly have been the purchaser of them; on the terms mentioned in your letter of the 2d. instt.; but as these depend upon contingencies, which may baffle calculation, I chuse to tread on sure ground in all my engagements; being as unwilling to embarrass others, by uncertain contracts, as I am to be deceived myself in my expectations, from the assurances which I receive of promised payment.

From the enquiries which have already been made of you, relatively to my Farms at Mount Vernon, I take the liberty of enclosing you the terms on which I mean to lease them. My expectation of disposing of them at the Rents therein mentioned, to such Tenants as I should chuse, is not very sanguine; nor would I incline to do it to the slovenly farmers of this

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Country, if I had a tolerable well founded hope of getting them from any other; where husbandry is better understd. and more rationally practiced; the mention of which to some of your Acquaintance, as you may chance to fall in with them (particularly English and Scotch, the latter more especially) might be a means perhaps of suggesting it to others in the land they came from.

It is not my intention, at least at the present moment, to let the Negros go with the Land; but if enquiries on this head should be repeated, it would be useful to me, to learn on what terms, these and the lands conjointly, could be disposed of. Remember me kindly to Fanny and the Children and be assured of the Sincere friendship of Your etc.

To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 13, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 28th. of Feby (as I mentioned in a short letter written to you on Wednesday last) did not reach my hands until tuesday evening; and I had it not in my power next morning, before closing the Mail, to mention some things which I am about to do in this letter.

The scarcity of Corn, and high price of that article in all the Southern States, and in the Southern and western parts of Virginia, gives serious alarm. Whether I have enough to serve me, or any to spare, I know not, but in either case, I request the utmost care and parsimony may be observed in using it. In many places I am told it is at six and seven dollars a barrel already; and expected to rise.

When you have got the whole of the New ground at Mansion house properly cleaned up, and fit for the Hoe and plough; calculate what force of hands, and horses it will take to culti-

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vate it; and *well;* in Corn this year; and that you may be certain of accomplishing it as it ought to be; (as my great object is to kill the roots, and destroy the sprouts, so as to fit it for grass) I would, if there be any doubt of effecting this in the manner here expressed, have the Corn ground else where reduced: especially too as I should like to have the waste ground, adjoining to the last years corn, at the same place, also brought into cultivation; and for the same purpose as the other; that is, that it may be thoroughly reclaimed from Roots, sprouts and Shrubs; and laid to grass. As there were many ugly gullies in the part last mentioned, I hope you have had, or will have them filled up, with the brush &ca. from the other parts. Not being sure that I gave you a plat of these grounds, I do it now; that by knowing the exact quantity you may calculate your force accordingly; allowing, as no doubt you will, for the extra: labour of working New ground, where there will be so many interruptions by roots &ca; and old ground, where the Plough wd. run smooth and easy. Let all the Trees wch. have been left, (as well this year as formerly) except where they stand in clumps, be trimmed to one even height from the ground; and that as high as they well can be, by means of a Chizzel and Staff. To do this properly, will have a two fold effect; 1st, by lopping off so many limbs, and so high up, the shade, and of course the injury to the corn, will be less; and 2dly, it will add beauty to the appearance of the trees, when they get to be of larger growth.

Altho' I am under no apprehension of Flour falling in price (but, on the contrary, that it will continue to rise, especially if the British forces have arrived in the West Indies, of which I believe there is no doubt) I would have you keep me regularly informed of the Alexandria price of this article, and the terms of payment; that I may know when to strike. And that it may

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all go together, I beg you to exert your best endeavors to complete the grinding of my Wheat as soon as possible. Let me know the number of Barrels you have on hand, and how many more there probably will be from the supposed quantity of Wheat yet to deliver. If the Miller's weekly report was to contain the quantity of flour on hand it would save me these enquiries. Whenever it is sold, take care to reserve a full quantity for my Table, and the demands of those who are to be supplied by agreement.

I wish to know from Colo. Fitzgerald what the Rent of Mr. Digges Mill near Bladensburgh is. What Rickets pays for Bird's near Alexandria; and that you wd. extend your enquiries as much as you can; and let me know the result. I cannot speak with certainty for want of the accounts, but should suppose that £100 pr Ann. for my Mill would fall far short of the *common* interest of the money she has cost me; including the labour of my own People.

I never supposed you had made any mistake in giving an acct. of the Rents which Mrs. French, and those about her, received for their Lands, by the hundred acres. The tendency of my enquiries was to ascertain a fact, viz, If She, or they, give leases for lots containing 100 acres each, what proportion of that hundred acres is cleared, and in order for cultivation? If the Tenant gives fifteen pounds for an hundred acs and there is only fifteen acres of that hundred cleared, he does (until more is arable) actually pay 20/. per acre for the cultivable Land. Therefore, as the Land I propose to let, is already in order for the Plough, I wanted to draw a comparison between what I ask for my fields, and others give by the acre for cleared land, already in order for tillage. I do not know that my conjectures with respect to the tenements about Mrs. French's are well founded; but if they are, and in a hundred acre lot, there be

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not more than 15 or 20 acres of arable, those tenants pay double what I ask for my land; supposing a dollar to be the medium price of a Bushel of Wheat; and yet I have not much expectation of letting my farms on the terms I offer them; as *sounds*, often terrify more than realities. The truth is, if I do not get what I conceive to be an adequate Rent, and good tenants, who will do justice to the land, I shall not rent them at all. The terms have been forwarded to you in a former letter. It is not my intention to let the Negros with the farms. But you may, nevertheless, when enquiries are made know what could be obtained for both &ca.

Until all danger from frost is over, mention in your letters how the Winter grain looks: and when this danger is past, inform me how it appears; whether the ground is sufficiently stored with it; and whether the naked places are numerous and large. Do not spare the Roller if you should be of opinion that good would result from the use of it.

My public duties press so much upon me, that unless something occurs, to remind me of my private concerns they escape me altogether. This would have been the case with respect to the Jacks, and Stud horse had you not mentioned Allison's request. Had it occurred in time, I intended to have informed you, that both Colo. Ball (near Leesburgh) and Mr. Robt. Lewis (near Fauquier Court house) had suggested, that one of my Jacks, at either of those places, would have many Mares sent to him. And I should have added, that I did not object to the measure; but would leave it to you and Peter (the last of whom ought by this time to know which it would be best for me to retain) to say which should go. Now, I presume it is too late in the Season to change their destination; for before one could be got to either of those Gentlemen, and notice thereof given, the covering season would be far advanced. After

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mentioning these things I still leave it to you to do what you conceive will be most conducive to my interest. If either of those Gentlemen was to get either of the Jacks, two things I should insist upon: 1st. the utmost care of the animal; and 2dly. No credit to be given; at least for the part which is to fall to my share, for there is no collectg. debts of this sort.

I know nothing of Thomas Allison's Circumstances, responsibility, Plan or terms, consequently can say nothing relative to his offer. But as he lives in the same neighbourhood, and cannot, I should suppose, be provided with either Stable, Forage or Pasturage fit for such purposes, I do not see what more is to be expected from sending the horse there, than keeping him at Mount Vernon; (especially as *his* profits would be to be deducted from the earnings of the coverings: and besides, I thought the horse was necessary to be with the Jacks, to try the Mares by.

As you have already taken ten shares in the Alexandria Bank, I am very well satisfied thereat; and that it should so remain.

Open and Mild as the winter has been, will you not have Hay to sell? In that case, how much, and what is the price of it in Alexa I remain Your friend

PS. Your letter of the 6th. instant came to hand yesterday, but there is nothing contained in it, that is not already noticed in the aforegoing letter.

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 15, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: By the 9th Section of the Act entitled "An Act to provide a naval Armament" it is enacted "that if a peace shall take

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place between the United States and the Regency of Algiers that no further proceedings be had under this Act."

The peace which is here contemplated having taken place it is incumbent upon the Executive to suspend all orders respecting the building of the Frigates, procuring materials for them or preparing materials already obtained which may be done without intrenching upon Contracts or agreements made and entered into before this event.

But inasmuch as the loss which the Publick would incur might be considerable from dissipation of Workmen, from certain works or operations being suddenly dropped or left unfinished, and from the derangement in the whole system, consequent upon an immediate suspension of all proceedings under it, I have therefore thought adviseable before taking such a step to submit the subject to the Senate and House of Representatives that such measures may be adopted in the premises as may best comport with the public Interest.[62]

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 20, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Your letter of the 13th. instt. and the reports of the proceeding week came duly to hand yesterday, and will, I presume, do so regularly through the course of the Spring and Summer.

I am sensible that by dividing my farms into small tenements, I add very much to the consumption of my Timber, (and

*From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 16 Washington presented to Mrs. Walter Stewart, Madam de Brehan's miniature portrait (known as the "cameo portrait") of himself, with the following note: "Not for the representation or the value, but because it is the production of a fair Lady, the President takes the liberty of presenting the enclosed with his best regards, to Mrs. Stewart, praying her acceptance of it." The original of this letter is now in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

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perhaps of the fuel) until hedges sufficient against every thing but Hogs, could be raised (which of quick growing wood might soon be done) but then, I know also, that if I could seat my land with professed, and real farmers, that the improvements in Buildings, orchards, Hedges, Meadows &ca. which they would attend to, would greatly overbalance the disadvantages arising from an extra: consumption of Wood in the course of fifteen or 18 years.

It was not intended, nor does it appear from either my Advertisement or the terms proposed in the written propositions that I meant to lay the Land off in lots containing precisely a hundred acres. That quantity was only taken as a data to make an estimate upon. By the notifications the whole or any part, by fields, might be let provided enough would engage to take a *whole* farm as I could not let part, and keep part of one myself.

The mode suggested by you for dividing them, may be very good; and I shall receive with satisfaction and pleasure any other ideas which may occur to you in this business: as the whole plan is thrown out more with a view of trying what *can be done* than from an expectation of accomplishing it agreeably to my wishes. In what manner though would you divide River and Union farm into 4 tenements each. D. Run into 3, and Muddy hole into two?

One great object with me, is to seperate the Negros from the Land; without making the condition of the former worse than it now is: whereas, if I was to rent the farm as they now stand, with the Negros &ca. on Shares, or divide them, negros &ca. as you have suggested there would be a great deal of attention required, and perhaps risque and abuse to be run, and after all perpetual complaints perhaps from the Negros that would be

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hired of ill usage in a variety of ways which would make one uneasy, and defeat in all probability the main objects which I aim at, viz, tranquillity with a *certain* income. Notwithstanding these observations, and this explanation of my wishes, I shall be very glad, as I have observed before, to receive any suggestions you may think proper to make; to know the sentiments of others, if they are communicated to you; and to know the propositions of all who make them to you; whether for the whole farms, or large or small parts of them without the Negros &ca., or in the same manner, the Negros and stock going along with the Farms.

There seems to be no apprehension in the mind of any one, here, that the price of flour will fall; However as the price is high, and I am unwilling to run any risks I would have you sell mine whenever you can get fifteen dollars pr. barrel for it payable in Sixty days, unless you should be advised to the contrary by *me* or have good cause to believe from something you yourself may *see,* or *hear* where you are that it will probably be higher in a short time.

What ground do you put into Oats at Mansion house, and at the farms, this Spirng? And when do you begin seeding them? Would the waste part of the Inclosure that was in Corn last year at the Mansion House bring Oats? Upon reflection, if it goes into corn this year, it will require a fence between it and the other part, which is in small grain; or, no use can be made of the latter until *all* that would be in Corn at that place wd. be equally at liberty.

Is there no work in the shop (drawing shingles and such like) in which Carpenter James could be usefully employed. He is a very worthless fellow; indeed I have sometimes suspected that he cuts himself on purpose to lay up. for something

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or another of this sort is constantly happening to him. In Harvest, he is sure to get a cut in the beginning of it, so as to lay him up during the continuance of it. I wish you well and remain Your etc.

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, March 21, 1796.

Dear Sir: Presuming that you have received my last, sent thro' the hands of Mr. Keith, with such aids as he was able to afford you respecting my Administration of Colo. Colvils estate, and supposing, as the Chancery term is closed or about to close, that the enclosed letter from that Gentleman would not get to your hands in time to influence your measures I resolved at *first* not to send it. But upon second thoughts have changed my mind, leaving it to chance, and your own judgment to give it the best effect of which the information is susceptible.

My best wishes attend you and Mrs. Washington. And with sincere regard and friendship I am etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, March 21, 1796.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 14th Instant did not get to my hands before Saturday. Mine dated the 13th. acknowledging the receipt of your favors of the 26th. Ulto. and 2d Inst. must, I presume, have been received in due course of the Post, and therefore to repeat the contents of it is unnecessary.

A Mr. Summers[64] of Alexandria, is very desirous of purchasing my vacant lot in that Town; and having been told that nothing short of a high price would induce me to sell it, makes

[64] William Summers.

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the offer contained in the enclosed letters.[65] Whether this offer is high, or otherwise, depends upon comparison; the means of doing which is not within my reach, but through the medium of another, and therefore I give you the trouble of making some enquiry into the matter at any time when you are in Alexandria. I have no wish to part with the lot unless I can do it upon advantageous terms, and can dispose of the Money in a more productive manner. I had thoughts of building on it, but this would be attended with trouble, and perhaps a good deal of imposition; as it could not be properly attended to in the execution of the work. And besides workmens wages and materials are very high at this time.

A thought has run through my mind (since I began this letter) whether, as I have a prospect, from the high price of flour, of raising five or six thousand dollars from the sale of it; it might not be eligable with that sum, and the sale of the vacant lot (to Summers) to make the purchase suggested in one of your former letters to me? If that property is in an eligable place (and I wish to know where it lies) or whether or not, if it would bring ten pr. Cent on the purchase money, it would certainly be more immediately advantageous to me, than to let a part of the sum, necessary to command it, lay dead in a vacant lot; which when built on, would only be to let. Mr. Dandridges answer to Mr. Summer's, enclosed, is left open for your perusal, and may be delivered to him, or not, and at any time you may find convenient.

As the Post hour is at hand, and I have many letters to close, and prepare for the Mail I hardly know what I have written, or whether you will be able, fully to comprehend my meaning. My love in which Mrs. Washington unites, is presented to fanny and the Children, and I am etc.

[65] On March 21 Bartholomew Dandridge wrote Summers that the President declined his offer of $3,000 for the lot in question, and referred him to Tobias Lear "for any further information or negotiation respecting the same." A copy of this letter is in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

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To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Philadelphia, March 25, 1796.

Sir: The resolution moved in the House of Representatives, for the papers relative to the negotiation of the Treaty with G. Britain[66] having passed in the affirmative, I request your opinion,

Whether that branch of Congress hath, or hath not a right, by the Constitution, to call for those papers?

Whether, if it does not possess the right, it would be expedient under the circumstances of this particular case, to furnish them?

And, in either case, in what terms would it be most proper to comply with, or to refuse the request of the House?

These opinions in writing,[67] and your attendance, will be expected at ten o'Clock tomorrow.[68]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 25, 1796.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I send herewith, for your information, the translation

[66] On March 7 Edward Livingston's resolution of March 2 was called up before the House of Representatives and amended by him so as to except "such of the said papers as any existing negotiation may render improper to be disclosed." The matter was debated until March 24, when Livingston's amended resolution was carried by a vote of 62 to 37, and presented to the President by a committee of the House. The President's reply, as reported by Livingston to the House, March 25, was "that he would take the request of the House into consideration."

[67] The opinions of the Attorney General, and the Secretaries of the Treasury and War, are dated March 26 and are in the *Washington Papers*. All these opinions advised against compliance with the resolution of the House. In addition, the Attorney General extracted from the journal of the Constitutional Convention, the proceedings bearing upon the treaty making powers. These extracts also are in the *Washington Papers*.

[68] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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of a Letter from the Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Secretary of State, announcing the Peace made by the Republic with the Kings of Prussia and Spain, the Grand Duke of Tuscany and the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, and that the Republican Constitution decreed by the National Convention, had been accepted by the People of France, and was in operation. I also send you a Copy of the answer given by my direction to this communication from the French Minister.[68] My sentiments therein expressed, I am persuaded will harmonize with yours and with those of all my fellow Citizens.[70]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, March 27, 1796.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 21st and 23d. instant have filled us with pain and anxiety; from which, probably, we shall not be relieved before tuesday; tho' we shall hope, on that day, to hear that both Fanny and Maria are much better, if not entirely recovered.

Upon receipt of the first of the letters above mentioned, I made immediate enquiry in what train the business respecting the Arsenal on Potomack was in, and have since been informed by the (present) Secretary of War, that he has written to you on the subject. I wish sincerely that the sickness in your family had not prevented your journey to this City and that it may not retard it much longer as the Departments at this juncture are so full of business as to require more attention, and urging in particular matters than the pressure of my own allows me to bestow. When you come we will make room for you to lodge in some manner or other as the only spare room we have will, I expect, be occupied by young Fayette and his Tutor.

[68] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.
[70] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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I wish devoutly, in which Mrs. Washington cordially unites, that this letter may find Fanny and Maria perfectly restored. My best regards to them and with affection. I am etc.

*To WILLIAM PEARCE

Philadelphia, March 27, 1796.

Mr. Pearce: Yesterday brought me your letter of the 20th. instant, with the Reports of the preceeding week.

I am sorry to find by it that your winter grain has changed its appearance for the worse; and that your fences have been so much deranged by the high wind you have had, in a greater degree I think than it was here, tho' it was very violent with us also. These being acts of Providence and not within our controul, I never repine at them; but if the Roller will be of any use to the grain I beg it may be applied. Let the damage which the Cupulo, and other things have sustained from the wind be repaired as soon as possible.

I would not have you undertake more of the New ground in Corn than you can cultivate *well* with the Mansion house and Muddy hole hands, assisted as much as possible (at convenient times) by those from the other farms. It was always my intention and expectation that the *whole* would have been tilled in Corn, and the field at Muddy hole which, otherwise, would have been in this article would have lain over to another year. I went upon the principle that it was of very little use to clear and grub ground if it was not cultivated, because in a year or two it would be as foul as ever. However, I do not make this observation with a view to stimulate you to attempt more than you can execute *compleatly* for that would not only defeat the view of preparing the field for grass, but by not cultivating it well would be the loss of the Crop.

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I am under no apprehension, or fear that flour with you will not again take a start; it is now at 16 dollars in this city, and every account from Europe developes more and more the scarcity of it there, besides the demand for it in the West Indies; but dispose of yours (if you can) on the terms mentioned in a former letter, and let me know from time to time what the current price is.

You say Compound[71] *may* be spared, but do not say that he *will*, or to *whom*, altho' I left both altogether to your own discretion. No time is to be lost if he goes at all. Mr. Lewis would, probably attend more to him than Colo Ball, and is, besides, an Agent of mine for other purposes.

From the present state of the business in Congress, I see very little prospect of its rising before June; of course I shall not be able to visit Mount Vernon at an earlier period. From hence you can form as good a judgment of my wants as I can of Hay. I am etc.

PS. Enclosed is a Letter, and some certificates from Mr. Butler. Let the latter be given to him; and if his distresses are truly represented, give him five or Six dollars; or more if it appears that he merits them: But tell him at the sametime, his claim on me is no greater than on any other; and therefore not to think of establishing it. And with respect to the school, I have nothing to do in providing Tutors for it.

To THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 29, 1796.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I send herewith a copy of the Treaty of Friendship, Limits and Navigation, concluded on the 27th of October last, between the United

[71] One of the Maltese jacks.

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States and his Catholic Majesty.[72] This Treaty has been ratified by me, agreeably to the Constitution: and the ratification has been dispatched for Spain, where it will doubtless be immediately ratified by his Catholic Majesty.

This early communication of the Treaty with Spain has become necessary, because it is stipulated, in the third Article, that Commissioners for running the boundary line between the territory of the United States and the Spanish Colonies of East and West Florida shall meet at the Natchez before the expiration of six Months from the ratification: And as that period will undoubtedly arrive before the next meeting of Congress, the House will see the necessity of making provision, in their present session, for the object here mentioned. It will also be necessary to provide for the expence to be incurred in executing the twenty first Article of the Treaty, to enable our fellow citizens to obtain, with as little delay as possible, Compensation for the losses they have sustained by the capture of their vessels and Cargoes by the Subjects of his Catholic Majesty, during the late War between France and Spain.

Estimates of the Monies, necessary to be provided for the purposes of this and several other Treaties with foreign Nations and the Indian Tribes will be laid before you by the proper Department.[73]

[72] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 29 Washington transmitted the Spanish treaty to the Senate in a very brief message covering the substance of this letter to the House. This message is also entered in the "Letter Book."

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